

*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:****BB may unveil contractionary MPS on Jan 15**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is likely to unveil on January 15 the monetary policy statement (MPS) for six months from January to June 2024, sources said about the half-yearly MPS. The stance of the MPS in all likelihood will be contractionary.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-may-unveil-contractionary-mps-on-jan-15-1704908198>

**Govt plans mortgage refinancing to make housing more affordable**

- A shot in the arm for Bangladesh's housing market is in the offing as the government has taken the initiative to form a Mortgage Refinance Company (MRC) to boost credit flow, unleash long-term investment and ensure affordable housing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/real-estate/govt-plans-mortgage-refinancing-make-housing-more-affordable-773114>

**LC settlements in December lowest in 37 months**

- The settlements of letters of credit (LCs) in December hit a 37-month low to USD 4.53 Bn due to decrease in imports for the last several months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lc-settlements-december-lowest-37-months-773106>

**Sector & Industry:****ENERGY | BPC seeks govt guarantee on USD 125 Mn ITFC loan**

- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has sought a government guarantee to take USD 125 Mn in loans from Jeddah-based International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) to import fuel oil, officials have said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bpc-seeks-govt-guarantee-on-125m-itfc-loan-1704908159>

**BANK | Banks yet to put special funds to use for equity investments**

- The five-year special-purpose funds were intended to solve the liquidity crisis of the market when the central bank in February 2020 instructed the lenders to form them.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/banks-yet-to-put-special-funds-to-use-for-equity-investments-1704910925>

**RMG | RMG exports to US continue to decline**

- Apparel shipments from Bangladesh to the United States have continued its downward trend for the past several months due to slowdown in the sourcing of garment items by American retailers and brands because of higher inflationary pressure.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-exports-us-continue-decline-3516201>

**Stocks:****CONFIDCEM | Confidence Cement allowed to issue 5% stock dividend**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed Confidence Cement Limited to issue a 5% stock dividend for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/confidence-cement-allowed-issue-5-stock-dividend-773090>

**RAKCERAMIC | Meghna Bank to arrange BDT 1.75 Bn for Star Ceramics**

- Meghna Bank will arrange BDT 1.75 Bn from different banks and financial institutions for tiles and sanitaryware manufacturer Star Ceramics, a sister concern of RAK Ceramics Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/meghna-bank-arrange-tk-175cr-star-ceramics-3516181>

**BESTHLDNG | BSEC now limits Best Holdings IPO subscriptions**

- In a letter to the company on Tuesday, the commission said, "The subscribed limit for the application amount is BDT 10,000 or its multiples, but not exceeding BDT 1.5 Mn"

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-now-limits-best-holdings-ipo-subscriptions-773086>

**AFTABAUTO | Hino's waning popularity eats into revenue, profit of Aftab Auto**

- Aftab Automobiles Limited, the exclusive distributor of 'Hino' buses, seemed to have lost its glory within the commercial vehicle industry as Hino lost momentum in the face of increasing competition from other brands such as Ashok Leyland, Tata, and Eicher.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hinos-waning-popularity-eats-revenue-profit-aftab-auto-773094>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.56	(USD 0.09)	-0.13%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.01	(USD 0.03)	-0.04%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,030.18	(USD 32.80)	-1.59%
DSEX	6,285.25	38.76	0.62%
S&P 500	4,783.45	13.62	0.29%
FTSE 100	7,651.76	-81.48	-1.05%
BSE SENSEX	71,657.71	-582.55	-0.81%
KSE-100	63,912.85	1,533.44	2.46%
CSEALL	10,719.64	65.48	0.61%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.42 BDT****1 GBP = 139.66 BDT****1 Euro = 120.12 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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