

*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 to adopt crawling peg. Can it end exchange rate volatility?**

- The Bangladesh Bank is going to adopt a new exchange rate regime known as the crawling peg as per the prescription of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ruling out the possibility of a market-driven exchange rate many have suggested.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-adopt-crawling-peg-can-it-end-exchange-rate-volatility-3518531>

**Govt to issue BDT 120 Bn bond**

- All is set for issuing BDT 120 Bn worth of government bond for paying piled-up electricity bills to independent power producers (IPPs) against capacity charge and other payments, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-to-issue-tk-120b-bond-1705165200>

**NBR lifts advance tax on import of computer accessories**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has lifted Advance Tax (AT) on import of parts and accessories for computers to be made locally, according to a notification.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-lifts-advance-tax-import-computer-accessories-3518451>

**Credit card use slightly down**

- Credit cardholders spent around 3.40% less in November last year compared to that in the preceding month, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/credit-card-use-slightly-down-3518536>

**WEF identifies 6 challenges Bangladesh would face in two years**

- Bangladesh will face energy supply shortage, inflation, economic downturn, inequality, public debt and unemployment in the next two years, according to a survey of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wef-identifies-6-challenges-bangladesh-would-face-two-years-3516881>

**Majority macro-indicators signal significant challenges**

- As many as six out of nine key economic indicators prepared by the central bank deteriorated, as of December last, implying that they hold the potential to weaken the economy further. The six weaker parameters are foreign-exchange reserves, import volume, domestic debt, export receipts, food stock, and CPI inflation.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/majority-macro-indicators-signal-significant-challenges>

**Sector & Industry:****RMG | Investment rises as Bangladesh conquers the world of denim**

- Bangladesh has conquered the global denim market by becoming the top supplier of the popular garment item to both the EU and US, with local investors continuing to pour in funds to capitalise on further growth in global markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/investment-rises-bangladesh-conquers-the-world-denim-3518526>

**RMG | Garment sector weathered global headwinds**

- Bangladesh's garment sector has firmly weathered the storm of Covid-19 and emerged stronger in spite of the hardships, reaffirming its position as a leader in sustainable and responsible business.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/garment-sector-weathered-global-headwinds-3517056>

**TRADE | Import payments ease for eight essentials**

- The central bank has allowed imports of edible oil, chickpeas, pulse, peas, onion, spices, sugar, and dates on usance terms for up to 90 days under supplier's or buyer's credits.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/import-payments-ease-eight-essentials-3517071>

**TRADE | Red Sea conflict: 40% freight charge hike hits exporters hard**

- The current turmoil in the Red Sea has hit businesses hard with higher freight charges, longer lead times and shortage of containers for exporters and importers. Additionally, exporters are reporting already losing apparel orders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/red-sea-conflict-40-freight-charge-hike-hits-exporters-hard-774386>

**ENGINEERING | Motorcycle sales dropped to five-year low in 2023**

- Motorcycle sales in Bangladesh hit a five-year low in 2023 following a gradual decline due to global economic crises and inflationary pressure, according to industry people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/motorcycle-sales-dropped-five-year-low-2023-3518511>

**Stocks:****RENATA | Renata set to pay off short-term loans with bond finance.**

- In a strategic move to mitigate the potential impact of rising interest rates, Renata Limited – a leading drugmaker in the country – is poised to issue bonds to entirely pay off its outstanding short-term bank loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/renata-set-pay-short-term-loans-bond-finance-773582>

**EXCHANGE | No limit to NRB Bank IPO shares subscription**

- The capital market regulator has lifted the bar in the initial public offering (IPO) applications of general investors for getting allotment of shares for NRB Bank Limited — a fourth-generation private sector commercial bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/no-limit-nrb-bank-ipo-shares-subscription-773558>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.68	USD 1.03	1.44%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.29	USD 1.25	1.62%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,049.06	(USD 13.92)	-0.67%
DSEX	6,301.70	55.21	0.88%
S&P 500	4,783.83	14.00	0.29%
FTSE 100	7,624.93	-108.31	-1.40%
BSE SENSEX	72,568.45	328.19	0.45%
KSE-100	64,638.55	2,259.14	3.62%
CSEALL	10,610.53	-43.63	-0.41%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.61 BDT****1 GBP = 139.72 BDT****1 Euro = 120.09 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
Syed Tawsifuzzaman	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com">s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 202
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)