

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.47%) gained 29.53 points and closed the week at 6,252.56 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.33%) gained 6.94 points and stood at 2,115.27 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.56%) gained 7.52 points and stood at 1,360.73 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.17%) gained 2.03 points and closed at 1,207.65 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +0.74%, -3.65%, +0.14%, -0.56%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 22.8 billion (USD 207 million)  
**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 4.6 billion ( $\Delta$  Week: +19.5%)  
**Market P/E:** 19.4x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a positive note (+0.14%) on Sunday and remained positive throughout the week respectively; Monday (+0.20%), Tuesday (+0.05%), Wednesday (+0.05%) and (+0.03%) on Thursday.

### Sectoral Performance

• All the financial sectors posted positive performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 1.73% followed by Mutual Fund (+1.58%), General Insurance (+0.82%), Bank (+0.10%), and NBFIs (+0.04%).

• All the non-financial sectors posted positive performance this week. Food & Allied booked the highest gain of 0.47% followed by Engineering (+0.42%), Pharmaceutical (+0.24%), Fuel & Power (+0.15%), and Telecommunication (0.00%).

### Macroeconomic arena

• Cenbank doubles limit for sending remittances to MFS accounts. Businesses paying more VAT due to Electronic Fiscal Devices: NBR. Bank deposits in Bangladesh surge on higher interest, lower investment. BDT 238 Bn VAT held up with govt entities. Workers' woes deepen as inflation outpaces wage growth for 22nd straight month. Current account surplus drops by 80% in one month. Reserves remain under pressure. TELECOM | Musk's Starlink to make entry to Bangladesh. RMG | Cotton imports to fall, could send yarn output lower. No tax on foreign loan interest till February: NBR. Dollar pressure rises as short-term foreign debt drops USD 300 Mn in October. Banks borrow BDT 151.2 Bn from BB in a day. Inflation cools to 7-month low at 9.49% in November. Exports up 27% in Nov as peak festival sales begin in West. Private credit sees marginal growth in October. Over USD 1 Bn in loans expected next week. External trade through Islamic banks in decline. Deal tomorrow for Patenga terminal's foreign operator.

• TELECOM | Bashundhara seeks to be 'strategic investor' in Teletalk. RMG | Chinese company to invest USD 89 Mn to set up first composite factory in Mongla EPZ. Remittance inflow climbs 21% in November. Govt debt interest rate tops 11%. Remitters' scope to deposit in forex widens. Banks, NBFIs struggle to recover loans as bankruptcy cases linger. For the first time, Bangladesh seeks foreign loans to support Rohingya. Paperfly founders set to buy out foreign investor's entire stake. Strong rebound expected in apparel shipment to US. Net export earnings from garments continues to be over 70%. N power expected next year as Russia completes fuel supply. Remittance dollar surges to BDT 123, defying efforts to control it. SMART, the benchmark interest rate, rises at fastest pace. 5 renewable power projects on cards to counter global fuel price surge. Imports thru land ports fell 13% in FY23. Forex reserve shrinks by USD 120m in a week.

### Stock Market arena

• DESCO | Desco to issue 607.6 Mn preference shares for government. EXCHANGE | Web Coats to raise BDT 50 Mn, get listed on SME platform. MJLBD | MJL Bangladesh plans to buy LPG tanker for BDT 3.5 Bn. IMAMBUTTON | Imam Button to enter the shoe market. AL-HAJTEX | High Court bars Alhaj Textile's FDR encashment. EXCHANGE | DSE stocks face downgrade to junk category. NHFIL | National Housing Finance gets nod to issue BDT 3.74 Bn bonds. SQRPHARMA | Square Pharma's two directors to buy 2 Mn shares worth BDT 420 Mn. IPDC | IPDC Finance to raise BDT 3 Bn by issuing bonds. EXCHANGE | 3-yr-old Craftsman Footwear plans listing on SME board to sustain growth. GHAIL | Four years not enough for Golden Harvest to use right share fund. COPPERTECH | Higher utility, raw material costs dent Coppertech's FY23 profit. GSPFINANCE | GSP Finance extends losing streak. EXCHANGE | Foreign investment in stock markets halves. MATINSPIINN | Matin Spinning declares 40% cash dividend. PTL | Paramount Textile's profit slides 14% in September quarter. EXCHANGE | Al-Amin Chemicals seeks post-facto BSEC approval to issue fresh shares. EXCHANGE | Proposed insider trading rule change raises concerns about stock manipulation.

December 07, 2023 (Week: December 03, 2023 – December 07, 2023)

**Dhaka Stock Exchange**

**DSEX ended in Green (+0.47%) in the week**

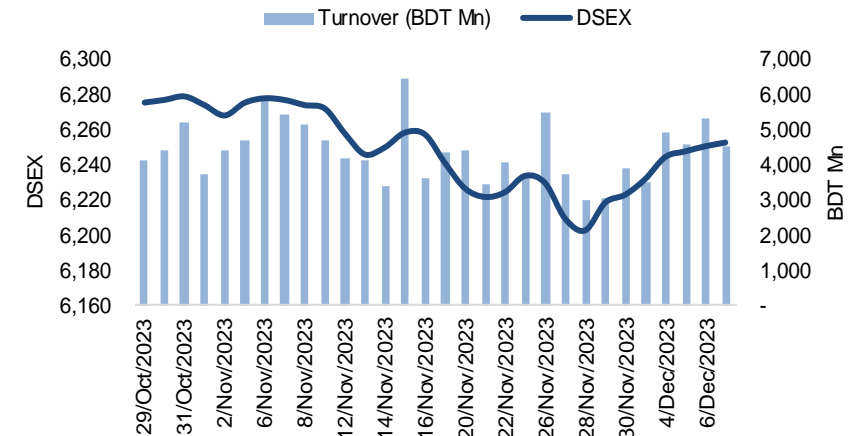
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	$\Delta$ (Pts)	29-Dec-2022	$\Delta$ % Week	$\Delta$ % YTD
DSEX	6,252.56	6,223.03	+29.53	6,206.81	+0.47%	+0.74%
DS30	2,115.27	2,108.32	+6.94	2,195.30	+0.33%	-3.65%
DSES	1,360.73	1,353.21	+7.52	1,358.84	+0.56%	+0.14%
CDSET	1,207.65	1,205.62	+2.03	1,214.42	+0.17%	-0.56%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	7,739,087	7,718,169	+0.3%
	Mn USD	70,196	70,006	
Turnover	Mn BDT	22,800	19,079	+19.5%
	Mn USD	207	173	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	4,560	3,816	+19.5%
	Mn USD	41	35	
Volume	Mn Shares	632	627	+0.9%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



**Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan**  
 Senior Research Associate  
 (880) 1708805224  
 hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com

**Billal Hossain**  
 Research Associate  
 (880) 1708805229  
 billal.hossain@bracepl.com

**Table 3: Top Ten Gainers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
1STPRIMFMF	20.9	15.1	+38.4%	418	195.8	NM	2.0x
CENTRALPHL	22.1	16.2	+36.4%	2,648	1,212.8	NM	4.0x
STANCERAM	172.8	131.2	+31.7%	1,116	208.5	NM	NM
BDTHAI	19.3	15.5	+24.5%	2,466	463.2	NM	0.7x
SKTRIMS	34.6	28.0	+23.6%	2,931	529.3	30.6x	2.2x
CAPITECGBF	13.0	11.0	+18.2%	2,024	149.0	NM	1.3x
CAPMIBLMF	11.9	10.2	+16.7%	796	48.3	NM	1.3x
KPPL	31.2	27.0	+15.6%	2,279	1,008.3	NM	NM
ADVENT	25.7	22.6	+13.7%	2,394	406.8	25.7x	1.7x
ISNLTD	56.1	49.4	+13.6%	613	145.5	NM	18.6x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SHYAMPSUG	180.0	195.2	-7.8%	900	26.6	NM	NM
GQBALLPEN	160.3	173.0	-7.3%	1,431	491.3	NM	1.3x
ZEALBANGLA	143.5	151.8	-5.5%	861	7.6	NM	NM
PAPERPROC	209.3	220.4	-5.0%	2,187	132.8	41.8x	5.7x
AIL	76.2	80.1	-4.9%	3,372	119.4	39.3x	3.2x
MONNOAGML	580.4	604.3	-4.0%	1,586	82.9	NM	3.3x
SAMORITA	94.0	97.7	-3.8%	1,863	175.8	NM	1.7x
MONOSPOOL	286.9	298.1	-3.8%	2,694	185.6	32.3x	5.3x
JUTESPINN	311.5	323.6	-3.7%	530	7.6	NM	NM
DAFODILCOM	81.9	84.5	-3.1%	4,088	32.4	NM	6.0x

**Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
CENTRALPHL	22.1	16.2	+36.4%	2,648	1,212.8	NM	4.0x
KPPL	31.2	27.0	+15.6%	2,279	1,008.3	NM	NM
FUWANGFOOD	31.1	30.0	+3.7%	3,447	761.3	NM	11.9x
YPL	31.9	29.5	+8.1%	2,351	697.2	NM	6.0x
EMERALDOIL	100.8	91.6	+10.0%	6,019	645.9	50.9x	NM
AFTABAUTO	35.3	31.3	+12.8%	3,726	616.1	NM	0.7x
SEAPPEARL	179.4	180.9	-0.8%	21,663	541.1	29.1x	9.8x
SKTRIMS	34.6	28.0	+23.6%	2,931	529.3	30.6x	2.2x
PDL	13.0	11.8	+10.2%	2,386	511.1	NM	1.0x
MONNOCERA	116.1	110.3	+5.3%	4,380	506.8	39.9x	1.4x

**Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	236.3	+31.9%	13,352	26.0x	3.5x
OLYMPIC	148.1	+19.4%	29,611	17.9x	2.8x
UNILEVERCL	2,018.1	+13.3%	38,898	39.3x	18.8x
LHBL	69.7	+7.6%	80,948	12.7x	3.8x
JAMUNAOIL	179.8	+7.5%	19,854	5.5x	0.8x
PRIMEBANK	20.2	+5.2%	22,872	4.9x	0.7x
MPETROLEUM	207.1	+4.3%	22,412	5.1x	1.0x
EBL	29.4	+4.0%	35,493	6.3x	0.9x
BERGERPBL	1,766.5	+2.5%	81,927	26.5x	6.5x
MTB	15.5	+2.1%	15,238	7.1x	0.7x

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,442.5	1,441.0	1,427.09	+0.10%	+1.08%
NBFI	1,918.0	1,917.3	1,927.24	+0.04%	-0.48%
Mutual Fund	839.3	826.2	852.07	+1.58%	-1.50%
General Insurance	3,441.2	3,413.3	3,177.87	+0.82%	+8.29%
Life Insurance	2,605.6	2,561.4	2,492.91	+1.73%	+4.52%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-	-0.00%
Pharmaceutical	3,714.9	3,705.9	3,754.47	+0.24%	-1.05%
Fuel & Power	1,700.5	1,698.0	1,694.29	+0.15%	+0.37%
Cement	2,534.9	2,506.9	2,319.67	+1.12%	+9.28%
Services & Real Estate	1,757.2	1,773.0	1,782.23	-0.89%	-1.40%
Engineering	4,518.2	4,499.4	4,503.40	+0.42%	+0.33%
Food & Allied	21,262.4	21,163.9	21,247.80	+0.47%	+0.07%
IT	2,886.0	2,849.9	3,004.33	+1.27%	-3.94%
Textile	1,654.8	1,650.3	1,621.87	+0.27%	+2.03%
Paper & Printing	10,238.6	10,179.5	10,388.08	+0.58%	-1.44%
Tannery	3,126.7	3,084.9	3,093.43	+1.36%	+1.08%
Jute	17,970.1	17,948.0	14,850.17	+0.12%	+21.01%
Ceramics	710.2	695.2	704.74	+2.15%	+0.77%
Miscellaneous	4,223.0	4,165.7	4,071.46	+1.38%	+3.72%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	36.7	22.2	+65.65%	+0.85%	12.4x	0.7x
NBFI	15.9	8.2	+94.03%	+0.37%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	115.8	17.4	+566.09%	+2.68%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	278.0	235.1	+18.24%	+6.44%	18.7x	1.6x
Life Insurance	113.8	50.2	+126.56%	+2.64%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	0.3	0.4	-13.16%	+0.01%	16.0x	4.1x
Pharmaceutical	552.0	392.4	+40.67%	+12.78%	19.6x	2.2x
Fuel & Power	136.3	105.2	+29.59%	+3.16%	44.7x	1.1x
Cement	93.3	54.6	+70.93%	+2.16%	17.2x	2.6x
Services & Real Estate	194.7	221.1	-11.94%	+4.51%	22.8x	0.9x
Engineering	689.4	627.9	+9.80%	+15.96%	26.9x	1.9x
Food & Allied	489.8	473.9	+3.35%	+11.34%	19.8x	6.9x
IT	248.7	94.9	+162.00%	+5.76%	29.7x	2.5x
Textile	268.8	364.5	-26.25%	+6.22%	NM	1.2x
Paper & Printing	313.4	258.5	+21.24%	+7.26%	59.6x	1.9x
Tannery	90.0	47.9	+88.00%	+2.08%	58.3x	3.3x
Jute	72.3	61.9	+16.66%	+1.67%	NM	NM
Ceramics	214.4	194.5	+10.20%	+4.96%	55.1x	2.0x
Miscellaneous	394.8	203.2	+94.30%	+9.14%	26.3x	1.8x

**Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	45.2	-13.2%	3,390	30.5x	2.0x
ADNTEL	109.7	-3.9%	7,092	NM	3.5x
UNIQUEHRL	56.7	-1.7%	16,692	9.1x	0.6x
ISLAMIBANK	32.6	-1.2%	52,486	8.5x	0.7x
TRUSTBANK	31.7	-0.1%	27,142	9.5x	1.2x
IPDC	57.6	-0.0%	21,375	46.7x	3.2x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	35.1x	1.4x
ACI	260.2	-	19,829	NM	2.3x
LINDEBD	1,397.7	-	21,271	34.0x	3.6x
UPGDCL	233.7	-	135,475	19.6x	4.1x

\*BDT

\*\*BDT Mn

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Cenbank doubles limit for sending remittances to MFS accounts

- The maximum limit for sending remittances to individual Mobile Financial Services (MFS) accounts has been doubled from the existing limit of BDT 0.125 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-doubles-limit-sending-remittances-through-mfs-752826>

### Businesses paying more VAT due to Electronic Fiscal Devices: NBR

- The installation of Electronic Fiscal Devices or EFD machines in business establishments is reaping its benefits, said the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/installing-electronic-fiscal-devices-behind-increased-vat-collection-nbr-752642>

### Bank deposits in Bangladesh surge on higher interest, lower investment

- Bankers point to a pre-election deceleration in investment activity as a key driver behind the surge in deposits within the banking sector. Bank deposits are on the rise, buoyed by elevated interest rates – as high as 9% – offered by lenders grappling with a liquidity shortage.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-deposits-surge-higher-interest-lower-investment-752394>

### NBR Saudis keen to enhance trade ties in key areas

- Saudi Arabia has vowed to enhance its business ties with Bangladesh in various sectors, including food, energy, logistics, and manufacturing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/saudis-keen-enhance-trade-ties-key-areas-752998>

### Bangladesh gets first foreign port operator

- The operator, Red Sea Gateway Terminal International (RSGTI), will invest approximately USD 170 Mn to install equipment at the Patenga Container Terminal's (PCT's) upgradation, read a press release from the Sustained Infrastructure Holding Company, one of the operator's investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-gets-first-foreign-port-operator-3487776>

### Thailand keen on wrapping up FTA with Bangladesh as soon as possible

- Bangladesh and Thailand are interested to explore new avenues of cooperation in blue economy, electronic vehicle assembly and ecosystem management, technical textiles, data-driven modern agriculture, light engineering, halal industry, value added food processing etc.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/thailand-keen-on-wrapping-up-fta-as-soon-as-possible>

### BDT 238 Bn VAT held up with govt entities

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) faces a daunting challenge in collecting a massive amount of revenue held up with various institutions, primarily government entities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/tk23800cr-vat-held-govt-entities-753018>

### Workers' woes deepen as inflation outpaces wage growth for 22nd straight month

- In November, wages of low and unskilled workers grew 7.72% year-on-year, which was 1.77 percentage points below the inflation rate of 9.49% that month, showed the Wage Rate Index (WRI) of the BBS.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/workers-woes-deepen-inflation-outpaces-wage-growth-22nd-straight-month-3487716>

### Current account surplus drops by 80% in one month

- Bangladesh's current account surplus saw a substantial decline in October, plummeting to only USD 233 Mn, a reduction of four-fifths from the previous month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-surplus-drops-80-one-month-753038>

### Reserves remain under pressure

- Pressure on the foreign exchange reserves remains high as the deficit in the financial account continues to widen despite the narrowing trade gap and a current account surplus.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/reserves-remain-under-pressure-3487856>

### TELECOM | Musk's Starlink to make entry to Bangladesh

- The government has decided to award a licence to Starlink, operated by American aerospace company SpaceX, the brainchild of billionaire Elon Musk, in a development that could create some competition in the internet business in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/musks-starlink-make-entry-bangladesh-3487811>

**RMG | Cotton imports to fall, could send yarn output lower**

- Bangladesh may import a lower volume of cotton in the current marketing year of 2023-24 owing to a fall in orders from buyers for garments and difficulties in opening letters of credit for declining foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cotton-imports-fall-could-send-yarn-output-lower-3487766>

**No tax on foreign loan interest till February: NBR**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced that the 20% tax imposed on the interest of foreign loans taken by businesses will not be applicable till February 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/no-tax-foreign-loan-interest-till-february-nbr-752354>

**Framework for early rescue formed for banks**

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday introduced a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework to identify the problems of any bank so that they may be tackled at an early stage before becoming acute.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/framework-early-rescue-formed-banks-3486811>

**Dollar pressure rises as short-term foreign debt drops USD 300 Mn in October**

- Due to the rising interest rate of the dollar in the international market and continuous increase in dollar rate, the short-term foreign debt of the private sector fell by USD 300 Mn in October, putting fresh pressure on the dollar liquidity and dwindling forex reserves in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-pressure-rises-short-term-foreign-debt-drops-300m-october-751778>

**Banks borrow BDT 151.2 Bn from BB in a day**

- Commercial banks have continued to borrow from Bangladesh Bank to meet their liquidity shortages despite a hike in the policy rate.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/banks-borrow-tk-15120cr-bb-day-3486596>

**Govt likely to retreat from its quest for higher growth**

- The economy is perhaps slowing, not sprinting. And the government is likely to lower its economic growth target by one percentage point for the fiscal year ending in June, veering from its quest for a higher trajectory in times of austerity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-likely-retreat-its-quest-higher-growth-3486816>

**LEATHER | Bangladesh's leather exports to benefit from CETP upgrade**

- The move comes as a part of the government's efforts to reduce pressure on the central effluent treatment plant (CETP) at the tannery industrial estate in Savar, Dhaka by encouraging the private firms to set up their own.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-leather-exports-benefit-cetp-upgrade-3486771>

**RMG | BGMEA calls for fast tracking customs clearance for RMG sector**

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has called for speeding up customs-related procedures more, particularly the faster clearance of export-import goods, to enhance the competitiveness of the ready-made garment industry.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bgmea-calls-for-fast-tracking-customs-clearance-for-rmg-sector>

**Inflation cools to 7-month low at 9.49% in November**

- Inflation has eased in November at 9.49% – the lowest in the last 7 months. This marks a notable decline from October's 9.93%. The previous low of 9.24% was recorded in April before a surge to 9.94% in May.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-cools-7-month-low-949-november-751710>

**Exports up 27% in Nov as peak festival sales begin in West**

- Exports grew 27% in November compared to October on the back of higher demands for apparels in the West as the festival season has already set in Bangladesh's major export destinations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/garment-exports-decline-745-nov-751374>

**Private credit sees marginal growth in October**

- Loan disbursements to the private sector increased by BDT 162.66 Bn or 1.08% month-on-month in October. That is also a growth of 10.09% compared to the same month of the previous year. Bankers feel that credit growth is increasing as import-based payments rise.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/private-credit-sees-marginal-growth-october-751166>

**Land transfer tax cut in some areas**

- The government has cut the land transfer tax in certain areas of Dhaka and Chattogram districts in order to make it affordable, encourage the registration of property transfers and increase revenue collection.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customs/news/land-transfer-tax-cut-some-areas-3486031>

**Over USD 1 Bn in loans expected next week**

- Bangladesh is expected to receive more than USD 1 Bn in budget support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) next week, which could bring some relief to the nation's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/over-1bn-loans-expected-next-week-3486001>

**External trade through Islamic banks in decline**

- External trade through Bangladesh's 10 Shariah-compliant banks is experiencing a sharp decline, while loans of these banks have outpaced their deposit collections by multiple times, placing immense strain on their liquidity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/external-trade-through-islamic-banks-decline-751178>

**Deal tomorrow for Patenga terminal's foreign operator**

- A much-awaited deal with a Saudi firm to operate the newly-built Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) at the Chattogram port is set to be signed tomorrow.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/deal-tomorrow-patenga-terminals-foreign-operator-3485901>

**TELECOM | Bashundhara seeks to be 'strategic investor' in Teletalk**

- Bashundhara Telecommunications Ltd, a sister concern of Bashundhara Group, has sent a proposal to the Post and Telecommunications Ministry about its investment in Teletalk, the lone state-owned mobile-phone company, as "strategic investor" aiming to improve the services of the latter through innovations.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bashundhara-seeks-to-be-strategic-investor-in-teletalk>

**RMG | Chinese company to invest USD 89 Mn to set up first composite factory in Mongla EPZ**

- Chinese company Yun Sheng BD Co Ltd is going to establish a composite (textile, garments and accessories) factory in Mongla Export Processing Zone (Mongla EPZ). The company will invest USD 89 Mn to produce fabrics, garments and garments accessories items.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chinese-company-invest-89m-set-first-composite-factory-mongla-epz-751566>

**Remittance inflow climbs 21% in November**

- Migrant workers sent home USD 1.93 Bn in November, an increase of 21% year-on-year, as banks offer a higher rate for the US dollar to collect remittance, central bank figures showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-inflow-climbs-21-november-3484841>

**Govt debt interest rate tops 11%**

- As Bangladesh government has turned to treasury bills and bonds – instead of overprinting money leading to inflation – for taking loans, its interest rate on treasury bills has exceeded 11% according to a local media report.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govt-debt-interest-rate-tops-11pc>

**Remitters' scope to deposit in forex widens**

- The Bangladesh Bank yesterday widened the scope for remitters to deposit their foreign currency earnings and get interest against the funds in forex.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remitters-scope-deposit-forex-widens-3485081>

**Making most VAT payment electronically now mandatory**

- Making the payment of value-added tax (VAT) above BDT 1.0 Mn mark must be done electronically or by A-chalan from January under an order meant for plugging revenue evasion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/making-most-vat-payment-electronically-now-mandatory>

**Banks, NBFIs struggle to recover loans as bankruptcy cases linger**

- According to sources in the Supreme Court, the bankruptcy law, enacted in 1997, has overseen around 800 cases in bankruptcy courts. In these cases, 80 individuals have been declared bankrupt over the past decade, primarily due to actions initiated by various banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-nbfis-struggle-recover-loans-bankruptcy-cases-linger-750618>

**USD 8 Bn climate fund rolled out for Bangladesh**

- In a first in Asia, development partners have come together to announce an USD 8 Bn fund to help Bangladesh mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. This collaborative approach is being spearheaded by the International Monetary Fund.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/news/8b-climate-fund-rolled-out-bangladesh-3485161>



**KPST Shoes makes export as first firm from Bepza Economic Zone**

- KPST Shoes (BD) Co Ltd, a Chinese-owned shoe accessories manufacturing company, has commenced exporting from the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) Economic Zone. According to Bepza, in the first shipment, KPST Shoes has exported EVA sheets – a shoe accessory – worth USD 349,300.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/kpst-shoes-makes-export-first-firm-bepza-economic-zone-749486>

**For the first time, Bangladesh seeks foreign loans to support Rohingyas**

- In the face of diminishing funds from international sources, Bangladesh is actively seeking a billion-dollar aid package from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support socio-economic development efforts for the Rohingya population and the affected host communities in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/rohingya-crisis/first-time-bangladesh-seeks-foreign-loans-support-rohingyas-751106>

**Paperfly founders set to buy out foreign investor's entire stake**

- Local co-founders of Paperfly, a prominent third-party logistics e-commerce firm, are poised to acquire the entire stake held by Indian investor Ecom Express, which is over 80% of the firm, at a massive discounted price, according to industry sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paperfly-founders-set-buy-out-foreign-investors-entire-stake-750606>

**Strong rebound expected in apparel shipment to US**

- A year-on-year higher presence of shoppers during holiday sales in the US featuring Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday is expected to deplete inventories, signaling a strong rebound in apparel shipment from Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/strong-rebound-expected-apparel-shipment-us-3484251>

**Another RMG factory gets LEED Platinum certification**

- According to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Integra Dresses Limited located in Gazipur secured platinum ratings, with a score of 99.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-now-has-204-green-factories-rmg-sector-749806>

**Net export earnings from garments continues to be over 70%**

- Bangladesh's net export earnings from the shipment of readymade garments (RMG) contributed to over 70% of the gross export receipts for the third consecutive quarter ending in September 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/rmg/news/net-export-earnings-garments-continues-be-over-70-3484246>

**N power expected next year as Russia completes fuel supply**

- Bangladesh hopes to load nuclear fuel into the 2,400-megawatt Rooppur nuclear power plant for electricity generation by late 2024 as Russia has completed its supply by air through leapfrogging shipping sanctions, said sources.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/n-power-expected-next-year-as-russia-completes-fuel-supply>

**Remittance dollar surges to BDT 123, defying efforts to control it**

- The dollar rate for remittance surged to BDT 123, defying all efforts to control it, just one day after the official rate was reduced for the second time in a week to BDT 109.75.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/remittance-dollar-surges-tk123-defying-efforts-control-it-749406>

**UNIDO adopts Bangladesh-initiated resolution on sustainable supply chain**

- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has adopted the Bangladesh-initiated resolution on 'strengthening member state's capacities in developing productive, resilient and sustainable supply chains' at its 20th General Conference in Vienna on Saturday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/unido-adopts-bangladesh-initiated-resolution-sustainable-supply-chain-750510>

**SMART, the benchmark interest rate, rises at fastest pace**

- The benchmark interest rate known as Six-Month Moving Average Rate of Treasury Bill (SMART) increased 29 basis points in November, the highest since its introduction, as the banking sector tackles a liquidity squeeze amid the central bank's move to make money costlier and reduce inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/smart-the-benchmark-interest-rate-rises-fastest-pace-3482901>

### **5 renewable power projects on cards to counter global fuel price surge**

- Responding to the pains of the Ukraine War-driven surge in energy costs and a commitment to sustainable development, Bangladesh is acting positively towards renewable energy investments. Currently, five fresh renewable power projects with a combined generating capacity of 700MW are undergoing evaluation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/5-renewable-power-projects-cards-counter-global-fuel-price-surge-750546>

### **Imports thru land ports fell 13% in FY23**

- Imports through land ports in Bangladesh, particularly those from neighbouring India, declined by more than 13% year-on-year in fiscal 2022-23 due to a prevailing US dollar crisis in the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imports-thru-land-ports-fell-13-fy23-3482881>

### **Scooter sales lose steam as costlier USD bites**

- The sales of scooters, which are popular among city-dwellers and women bikers, fell 20% year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2023, owing to the dearer US dollar and higher prices, industry people say.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/scooter-sales-lose-steam-costlier-usd-bites-3484166>

### **Airfreight in a downspin due to lower trade**

- About 0.28 Mn tonnes of cargo were shipped by air in FY23, down by some 21% year-on-year, as per the latest data of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/airfreight-downspin-due-lower-trade-3482031>

### **Tax collection falls short of IMF loan condition**

- The government has fallen BDT 179.46 Bn short of the revenue it was to collect in the form of taxes last fiscal year as per one of International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions for a USD 4.7 Bn loan.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tax-collection-falls-short-imf-loan-condition-3482126>

### **Forex reserve shrinks by USD 120m in a week**

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserve has fallen by nearly USD 120 Mn in the span of a week, central bank data showed. The reserve stood at USD 19.40 Bn on Wednesday, down from USD 19.52 Bn on November 22.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-reserve-shrinks-120m-week-3482621>

**Important News: Capital Market****DESCO | Desco to issue 607.6 Mn preference shares for government**

- State-owned power distributor Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) Limited has decided to issue 607.6 Mn crore preference shares at BDT 10 each to the government against share money deposit.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/desco-issue-6076cr-preference-shares-government-753026>

**EXCHANGE | Web Coats to raise BDT 50 Mn, get listed on SME platform**

- The stock market regulator has given its permission to Web Coats PLC to raise BDT 50 Mn through a qualified investors offer (QIO).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/web-coats-to-raise-tk-50m-get-listed-on-sme-platform>

**MJLBD | MJL Bangladesh plans to buy LPG tanker for BDT 3.5 Bn**

- MJL Bangladesh PLC, one of the leading private lubricant marketers, plans to invest USD 32.5 Mn, or BDT 3.5 Bn, to purchase a newly built tanker and provide rental services to private liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) companies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mjl-bangladesh-plans-buy-lpg-tanker-tk-350cr-3486451>

**IMAMBUTTON | Imam Button to enter the shoe market**

- Imam Button Industries Ltd, a publicly listed company that produces buttons for the apparel sector, has decided to set up a shoe-making unit in its factory premises in Chattogram.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/imam-button-enter-shoe-market-752350>

**AL-HAJTEX | High Court bars Alhaj Textile's FDR encashment**

- The High Court, last week, passed an order of injunction restricting Alhaj Textile Mills to encash any of its fixed deposit schemes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-court-bars-alhaj-textiles-fdr-encashment-752342>

**EXCHANGE | DSE stocks face downgrade to junk category**

- Fifty-nine companies listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) may be downgraded to "Z" or junk category for non-payment of dividends and failure to hold annual general meetings despite the end of the financial year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/59-dse-stocks-face-downgrade-junk-category-751754>

**NHFIL | National Housing Finance gets nod to issue BDT 3.74 Bn bonds**

- National Housing Finance PLC has received approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission to issue bonds worth BDT 3.74 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/national-housing-finance-gets-nod-issue-tk-374-crore-bonds-3484706>

**SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's two directors to buy 2 Mn shares worth BDT 420 Mn**

- Two directors of Square Pharmaceuticals PLC have announced their intention to purchase 2 MN shares of the company within 30 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-pharmas-two-directors-buy-20-lakh-shares-worth-tk42-crore-750814>

**IPDC | IPDC Finance to raise BDT 3 Bn by issuing bonds**

- IPDC Finance Ltd is going to raise BDT 3 Bn by issuing mortgaged backed zero coupon bonds. In a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange today, the non-bank financial institution said its board has given the consent to work on the issuance of bonds.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/ipdc-finance-raise-tk-300-crore-issuing-bonds-3484646>

**EXCHANGE | 3-yr-old Craftsman Footwear plans listing on SME board to sustain growth**

- Export-focused shoemaker Craftsman Footwear and Accessories looks to get listed on the SME board three years after beginning production, as it secured an exponential growth in profit between FY21 and FY23.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/3-yr-old-craftsman-footwear-plans-listing-on-sme-board-to-sustain-growth>

**GHAIL | Four years not enough for Golden Harvest to use right share fund**

- Even after four years of raising nearly BDT 900 Mn through the issuance of right shares, publicly listed Golden Harvest Agro Industries Limited—one of the leading frozen food and ice cream sellers in the country—failed to deploy the whole fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/four-years-not-enough-golden-harvest-use-right-share-fund-751090>



**COPPERTech | Higher utility, raw material costs dent Coppertech's FY23 profit**

- Coppertech Industries – a manufacturer of copper products – has reported a significant 64% decline in net profit for the fiscal 2022-23 due to the increase in utility and raw material prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/higher-utility-raw-material-costs-dent-coppertechs-fy23-profit-751086>

**GSPFINANCE | GSP Finance extends losing streak**

- GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh) Ltd suffered 230 Mn loss in the second quarter of 2023. The non-bank financial institution made BDT 21.9 Mn profit in the same period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/gsp-finance-extends-losing-streak-3484676>

**EXCHANGE | Foreign investment in stock markets halves**

- Foreign companies and individuals' investment dropped 20.8% year-on-year to USD 2.33 Bn in the financial year of 2022-23. It was USD 4.5 Bn in 2018-19, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-investment-stock-markets-halves-3485121>

**MATINSPINN | Matin Spinning declares 40% cash dividend**

- Matin Spinning Mills PLC, a concern of DBL Group, has announced a 40% cash dividend in the 21st annual general meeting (AGM) of the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/matin-spinning-declares-40-cash-dividend-3482856>

**PTL | Paramount Textile's profit slides 14% in September quarter**

- During the quarter, the company's consolidated net profit stood at BDT 235.9 Mn, resulting in a BDT 1.34 earnings per share. In its stock exchange filing, Paramount Textile blamed the global economic crisis for its profit decline as the company could not reach its expected export target.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paramount-textiles-profit-slides-14-september-quarter-749402>

**EXCHANGE | Al-Amin Chemicals seeks post-facto BSEC approval to issue fresh shares**

- Al-Amin Chemicals Industries, having raised BDT 250 Mn by issuing fresh shares without prior consent from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), now wants post-facto approval.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/al-amin-chemicals-seeks-post-facto-bsec-approval-issue-fresh-shares-750518>

**EXCHANGE | Proposed insider trading rule change raises concerns about stock manipulation**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is amending rules to allow insiders, who have access to non-public, price-sensitive information, to trade shares until two days before the end of the financial year of a firm, instead of the current two months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/proposed-insider-trading-rule-change-raises-concerns-about-stock-manipulation-750538>

## 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 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 transactions.

**General Risk Factors:** BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and also 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.

### 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
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

FOR SERVICE-RELATED QUERIES, REACH OUT TO

 [care@bracepl.com](mailto:care@bracepl.com)

 Call 16285



Website

Address

E-Mail

Contact

[www.bracepl.com](http://www.bracepl.com)

Symphony, Plot No. S.E. (F) - 9, Road No.  
142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Research: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)  
Sales : [ftrader@bracepl.com](mailto:ftrader@bracepl.com)

Phone: +880 2 985 2446-50  
Fax: +880 2 985 2451