

## Weekly Market Update

## DSEX ended in Red (-0.10%) in the week

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.10%) lost -5.18 points and closed the week at 5,194.43 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.35%) lost -6.70 points and stood at 1,924.27 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.59%) gained 6.84 points and stood at 1,161.94 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.40%) lost -4.27 points and closed at 1,061.21 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -0.42%, -0.80%, -0.60%, -0.46%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During The Week (DSE):** BDT 17.3 billion (USD 142 million)

**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 3.5 billion (Δ% Week: -0.4%)

**Market P/E:** 14.7x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note on Sunday (-0.66%), however, turned positive on Monday (+0.65%). The market again turned negative on Tuesday (-0.16%) and remained negative on Wednesday (-0.11%), but ended the week on a positive note on Thursday (+0.18%).

### Sectoral Performance

· Most of the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. NBF1 experienced the highest loss of -2.04% followed by General Insurance (-1.23%), Bank (-0.75%), Life Insurance (-0.69%), and Mutual Fund (+0.59%).

· Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 0.78% followed by Engineering (-0.62%), Pharmaceutical (-0.37%), Fuel & Power (-0.25%), and Telecommunication (+2.20%).

### Macroeconomic Arena

Govt borrows BDT 690 Bn from banks in H1 for deficit financing. Interest rate on savings certificates to be raised. Monetary policy likely in last week of January. BANK | Shrinking rural banking weakening CMSMEs. NBF1 | NBF1s' classified loans average 35%, with over 90% at 7 firms. BANK | Banks can now issue power-energy import payment guarantees without BB approval. FUEL & POWER | Adani pushes for payment roadmap as PDB arrears mount to USD 845 Mn. FUEL & POWER | BERC panel to review proposal. BANK | Bleeding in banks halted, but stability to take time. TELECOM | Mobile internet users dropped by 4.4 Mn in November. FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla's gas price hike proposal sparks industrial concerns.

Bhokra land port posts BDT 162.4 Mn revenue in first half of FY25. NBR now plans to double taxes on motorbikes, AC, refrigerator makers. Direct tax expenditure declined to BDT 1.15 Tn in FY22. Inflation eased slightly in Dec but still above 10%. RMG | Investment in product tracking tech fuels RMG accessories growth. CERAMICS | Exports of ceramic products drop by 2% in FY '24. RMG | RMG accessories expo to begin in Dhaka from Jan 8. RMG | Home textile exports bounce back. ADB to provide USD 1 Bn annually for Bangladesh's inclusive development. NBR plans to phase out tax exemptions. Squeezed by inflation, people seek refuge in mini-packs. Unemployed population rises by 0.17 Mn in one year: BBS. Exports hit USD 50 Bn in 2024. VAT hike won't impact inflation or prices of essentials: Finance adviser.

### Stock Market Arena

ISLAMIBANK | Embezzlement of BDT 9.93 Bn from Islami Bank: ACC to sue 54, including S Alam's son Ahsanul. SALAMCRST | What S Alam Cold Rolled Steels says about assets auction. EXCHANGE | Listed firms' profit drops 24% amid economic slowdown, political turmoil. GENNEXT | DSE demotes Generation Next Fashions to Z category. EXCHANGE | As trade dries up, stock exchanges turn to FDRs for survival. EXCHANGE | Govt to incentivise companies to go public. RENATA | Renata ships first batch of psychiatric disorder medicines to US. CITYBANK | City Bank data breach: Client financial statements sold on underground forums. BIFC | BIFC shows signs of dying: Auditor. EXCHANGE | City Bank Capital corrects position on its GDP estimation. EXCHANGE | IPO of Borak Real Estate rejected on suspicion of inflated earnings. BRACBANK | BB finds BDT 8.2 Mn mismatch in BRAC Bank vault, books. STANCERAM | Factory closure for a year piles up Standard Ceramics losses. FIRSTSBANK | First Security's MD sent on leave for loan irregularities.

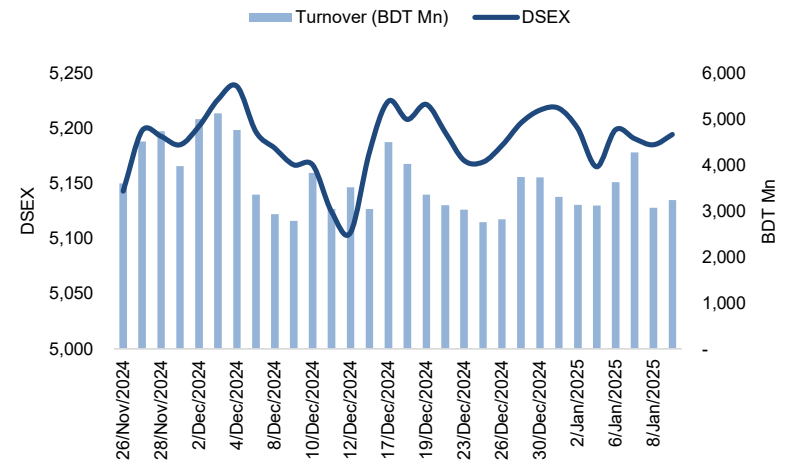
Table 1: Index

| Index | Closing* | Opening* | Δ(Pts) | 30-Dec-2024 | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD |
|-------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|
| DSEX  | 5,194.43 | 5,199.62 | -5.18  | 5,216.44    | -0.10%  | -0.42% |
| DS30  | 1,924.27 | 1,930.97 | -6.70  | 1,939.73    | -0.35%  | -0.80% |
| DSES  | 1,161.94 | 1,155.10 | +6.84  | 1,168.90    | 0.59%   | -0.60% |
| CDSET | 1,061.21 | 1,065.48 | -4.27  | 1,066.09    | -0.40%  | -0.46% |

Table 2: Market Statistics

|                        |           | This Week | Last Week | % Change |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Mcap                   | Mn BDT    | 6,602,932 | 6,629,514 | -0.40%   |
|                        | Mn USD    | 54,122    | 54,340    |          |
| Turnover               | Mn BDT    | 17,330    | 13,925    | 24.45%   |
|                        | Mn USD    | 142       | 114       |          |
| Average Daily Turnover | Mn BDT    | 3,466     | 3,481     | -0.44%   |
|                        | Mn USD    | 28        | 29        |          |
| Volume                 | Mn Shares | 655       | 489       | 33.95%   |

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



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

**S M Toufique Imran**  
**Research Associate**  
 (880) 1708805228  
 smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com

**Table 3: Top Ten Gainers**

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ%     | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE    | PB    |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| KPPL         | 13.3   | 10.2  | +30.4% | 971    | 112.2      | NM    | NM    |
| KBPPWBIL     | 161.1  | 130.1 | +23.8% | 15,801 | 421.4      | NM    | 13.5x |
| SHURWID      | 7.9    | 6.5   | +21.5% | 453    | 18.8       | NM    | 0.6x  |
| RELANCE1     | 23.7   | 20.3  | +16.7% | 1,434  | 207.9      | NM    | 2.2x  |
| SBACBANK     | 8.8    | 7.7   | +14.3% | 7,253  | 127.1      | 8.6x  | 0.6x  |
| ISNLTD       | 42.4   | 37.2  | +14.0% | 463    | 58.7       | NM    | 14.5x |
| ZAHEENSPIN   | 6.7    | 5.9   | +13.6% | 763    | 15.5       | NM    | 1.7x  |
| FASFIN       | 3.4    | 3.0   | +13.3% | 507    | 6.0        | NM    | NM    |
| GQBALLPEN    | 138.3  | 122.1 | +13.3% | 1,235  | 107.8      | NM    | 1.2x  |
| AOL          | 18.8   | 16.8  | +11.9% | 2,064  | 111.4      | 36.2x | 1.0x  |

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ%     | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE    | PB    |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| GENNEXT      | 3.5    | 3.9   | -10.3% | 1,732  | 18.1       | NM    | 0.3x  |
| STANCERAM    | 63.9   | 69.8  | -8.5%  | 413    | 2.3        | NM    | NM    |
| ORIONINFU    | 355.1  | 387.2 | -8.3%  | 7,230  | 430.9      | NM    | 22.2x |
| DULAMIACOT   | 73.5   | 80.1  | -8.2%  | 555    | 2.5        | NM    | NM    |
| KEYACOSMET   | 4.9    | 5.3   | -7.5%  | 5,401  | 27.8       | NM    | 0.4x  |
| WATACHEM     | 109.9  | 117.7 | -6.6%  | 1,629  | 3.1        | NM    | 1.8x  |
| PRIMELIFE    | 30.1   | 32.1  | -6.2%  | 919    | 2.7        | NM    | NM    |
| DOREENPWR    | 22.8   | 24.3  | -6.2%  | 4,130  | 23.4       | 15.3x | 0.4x  |
| BIFC         | 7.8    | 8.3   | -6.0%  | 785    | 0.7        | NM    | NM    |
| GEMINISEA    | 158.2  | 168.3 | -6.0%  | 1,690  | 34.1       | 90.5x | 9.1x  |

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

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ%     | Mcap**  | Turnover** | PE    | PB    |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|------------|-------|-------|
| FINEFOODS    | 254.5  | 237.4 | +7.2%  | 3,556   | 770.1      | NM    | 21.3x |
| MIDLANDBNK   | 33.8   | 31.6  | +7.0%  | 21,621  | 567.6      | 19.5x | 2.3x  |
| ROBI         | 29.5   | 29.0  | +1.7%  | 154,519 | 457.9      | 28.1x | 2.4x  |
| ORIONINFU    | 355.1  | 387.2 | -8.3%  | 7,230   | 430.9      | NM    | 22.2x |
| KBPPWBIL     | 161.1  | 130.1 | +23.8% | 15,801  | 421.4      | NM    | 13.5x |
| AGNISYSL     | 25.6   | 23.8  | +7.6%  | 1,857   | 379.6      | 21.5x | 1.5x  |
| OIMEX        | 28.2   | 28.8  | -2.1%  | 2,061   | 356.7      | 28.4x | 8.2x  |
| BSC          | 91.0   | 91.8  | -0.9%  | 13,881  | 345.9      | 4.8x  | 0.8x  |
| GP           | 332.4  | 324.2 | +2.5%  | 448,840 | 332.4      | 12.7x | 7.8x  |
| ASIATICLAB   | 37.9   | 35.0  | +8.3%  | 4,639   | 321.8      | 16.1x | 0.7x  |

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

| Company Name | Close* | YTD %Δ | Mcap**  | PE    | PB   |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|------|
| ACI          | 153.5  | +10.0% | 13,452  | NM    | 2.1x |
| ADNTEL       | 93.5   | +9.7%  | 6,045   | 17.3x | 2.9x |
| DUTCHBANGL   | 52.1   | +8.8%  | 45,786  | 7.3x  | 0.9x |
| MPETROLEUM   | 206.5  | +5.2%  | 22,347  | 3.8x  | 0.8x |
| ACTIVEFINE   | 8.3    | +5.1%  | 1,991   | NM    | 0.4x |
| ROBI         | 29.5   | +4.2%  | 154,519 | 28.1x | 2.4x |
| RUNNERAUTO   | 27.1   | +3.8%  | 3,077   | 26.8x | 0.4x |
| UCB          | 9.5    | +3.3%  | 14,729  | 5.2x  | 0.3x |
| GP           | 332.4  | +2.9%  | 448,840 | 12.7x | 7.8x |
| ESQUIRENIT   | 20.0   | +2.6%  | 2,698   | 24.1x | 0.3x |

*\*BDT*
*\*BDT Mn*
**Table 7: Sector Indices**

| Sector Name            | Week Close* | Week Open* | Year Open* | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------|--------|
| Bank                   | 1,458.7     | 1,469.8    | 1,429.64   | -0.75%  | +2.04% |
| NBFI                   | 1,157.1     | 1,181.2    | 1,188.21   | -2.04%  | -2.62% |
| Mutual Fund            | 601.1       | 597.6      | 603.30     | +0.59%  | -0.37% |
| General Insurance      | 2,699.3     | 2,732.9    | 2,772.79   | -1.23%  | -2.65% |
| Life Insurance         | 1,773.2     | 1,785.5    | 1,827.34   | -0.69%  | -2.96% |
| Telecommunication      | 5,339.5     | 5,224.7    | 5,185.99   | +2.20%  | +2.96% |
| Pharmaceutical         | 2,919.3     | 2,930.2    | 2,959.70   | -0.37%  | -1.37% |
| Fuel & Power           | 1,096.4     | 1,099.2    | 1,108.63   | -0.25%  | -1.11% |
| Cement                 | 1,901.7     | 1,927.4    | 1,957.26   | -1.33%  | -2.84% |
| Services & Real Estate | 989.6       | 1,009.3    | 1,013.65   | -1.96%  | -2.38% |
| Engineering            | 2,481.5     | 2,497.0    | 2,496.75   | -0.62%  | -0.61% |
| Food & Allied          | 16,786.1    | 16,918.7   | 17,177.59  | -0.78%  | -2.28% |
| IT                     | 2,038.6     | 1,954.0    | 1,994.92   | +4.33%  | +2.19% |
| Textile                | 1,091.9     | 1,088.7    | 1,093.38   | +0.30%  | -0.13% |
| Paper & Printing       | 4,013.2     | 3,963.3    | 3,998.20   | +1.26%  | +0.38% |
| Tannery                | 2,007.1     | 2,000.5    | 2,020.25   | +0.33%  | -0.65% |
| Jute                   | 13,713.0    | 13,964.5   | 14,455.60  | -1.80%  | -5.14% |
| Ceramics               | 349.3       | 359.2      | 359.12     | -2.77%  | -2.74% |
| Miscellaneous          | 4,292.2     | 4,231.7    | 4,252.62   | +1.43%  | +0.93% |

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

| Sector Name            | Daily Avg this Week | Daily Avg last Week | % Change | % of Total Turnover | PE    | PB   |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|------|
| Bank                   | 570.3               | 613.4               | -7.01%   | +17.68%             | 8.9x  | 0.7x |
| NBFI                   | 91.2                | 91.9                | -0.80%   | +2.83%              | NM    | NM   |
| Mutual Fund            | 111.3               | 103.8               | +7.23%   | +3.45%              | NM    | 0.5x |
| General Insurance      | 98.8                | 139.1               | -28.97%  | +3.06%              | 13.9x | 1.2x |
| Life Insurance         | 122.4               | 142.7               | -14.20%  | +3.80%              | NM    | NM   |
| Telecommunication      | 162.7               | 166.0               | -1.98%   | +5.05%              | 14.8x | 4.4x |
| Pharmaceutical         | 445.8               | 542.4               | -17.81%  | +13.82%             | 14.1x | 1.5x |
| Fuel & Power           | 140.1               | 166.9               | -16.08%  | +4.34%              | 14.2x | 0.6x |
| Cement                 | 20.0                | 26.1                | -23.43%  | +0.62%              | 15.2x | 1.9x |
| Services & Real Estate | 60.4                | 68.0                | -11.16%  | +1.87%              | 18.1x | 0.4x |
| Engineering            | 292.7               | 259.1               | +12.99%  | +9.08%              | 12.2x | 0.8x |
| Food & Allied          | 285.7               | 277.4               | +2.99%   | +8.86%              | 16.4x | 4.3x |
| IT                     | 177.7               | 86.4                | +105.65% | +5.51%              | 19.8x | 1.7x |
| Textile                | 288.8               | 260.7               | +10.77%  | +8.95%              | NM    | 0.8x |
| Paper & Printing       | 65.2                | 35.7                | +82.43%  | +2.02%              | NM    | 0.8x |
| Tannery                | 27.2                | 37.1                | -26.53%  | +0.84%              | 68.4x | 1.5x |
| Jute                   | 28.1                | 19.1                | +46.88%  | +0.87%              | NM    | NM   |
| Ceramics               | 15.6                | 16.3                | -4.35%   | +0.48%              | NM    | 1.0x |
| Miscellaneous          | 221.3               | 209.1               | +5.84%   | +6.86%              | 42.8x | 1.8x |

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

| Company Name | Close* | YTD %Δ | Mcap**  | PE    | PB   |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|------|
| GHAL         | 10.9   | -6.0%  | 2,353   | NM    | 0.9x |
| POWERGRID    | 39.4   | -5.7%  | 36,004  | NM    | 0.2x |
| DOREENPWR    | 22.8   | -4.6%  | 4,130   | 15.3x | 0.4x |
| BXPBARMA     | 78.2   | -4.2%  | 34,886  | 5.8x  | 0.7x |
| LHB          | 51.8   | -3.9%  | 60,159  | 14.9x | 3.0x |
| KPCL         | 12.6   | -3.8%  | 5,007   | NM    | 0.7x |
| CONFIDCEM    | 54.6   | -3.7%  | 4,709   | 5.2x  | 0.7x |
| BSCPLC       | 121.6  | -3.6%  | 22,744  | 16.5x | 1.3x |
| GPHISPAT     | 21.4   | -3.2%  | 10,355  | 10.9x | 0.4x |
| BATBC        | 356.1  | -3.1%  | 192,294 | 11.0x | 3.1x |

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Govt borrows BDT 690 Bn from banks in H1 for deficit financing

- The ministry of finance borrowed BDT 690.54 Bn from all the scheduled banks through issuing treasury bills and bonds during the July-December period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2024-25, while BDT 544.14 Bn was paid into the central-bank coffer, according to a confidential report prepared by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on government borrowing from the banking system.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-borrows-tk-690b-from-banks-in-h1-for-deficit-financing-1736359207>

### Interest rate on savings certificates to be raised

- The interim government is set to increase the interest rates against various savings certificates to upwards of 12% as it looks to provide some relief to the fixed-income group squeezed by the elevated inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/interest-rate-savings-certificates-be-raised-3795166>

### BANK | Shrinking rural banking weakening CMSMEs

- Commercial banks' position in rural Bangladesh keeps weakening with the constant fall in formal credit disbursements and the number of branches in the least- developed areas, bankers say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/shrinking-rural-banking-weakening-cmsmes-1736359464>

### NBFI | NBFIs' classified loans average 35%, with over 90% at 7 firms

- Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are burdened with non-performing loans, which reached 35.52% by the end of September 2024, with seven institutions reporting NPLs between 90% and 99%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbfis-classified-loans-average-35-over-90-7-firms-1036611>

### BANK | Banks can now issue power-energy import payment guarantees without BB approval

- To streamline the import process for essential government goods and services, banks will now have the authority to independently issue payment guarantees for power and energy imports, eliminating the need for prior approval from the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-no-longer-require-cenbank-approval-payment-guarantees-power-and-energy-imports>

### FUEL & POWER | Adani pushes for payment roadmap as PDB arrears mount to USD 845 Mn

- While recent months have seen improvements in PDB's payment patterns, Adani points out that these payments barely cover current monthly bills, leaving the staggering outstanding amount of USD 845 Mn, of which USD 771 Mn is overdue, untouched.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/adani-pushes-payment-roadmap-pdb-arrears-mount-845m-1038346>

### FUEL & POWER | Payra thermal power plant resumes full production

- The Payra 1,320MW Thermal Power Plant in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has resumed full production following a roughly two-month halt for maintenance works on its second unit and test runs of a neighbouring facility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/payra-thermal-power-plant-resumes-full-production-3794941>

### FUEL & POWER | BERC panel to review proposal

- A seven-member technical committee will review the proposed gas tariff hike to the height of LNG import cost for new industries and expansions of the existing ones. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has constituted the panel for vetting the Petrobangla proposal that implies that these industrial subscribers would have to pay nearly double the current tariffs on natural gas.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/berc-panel-to-review-proposal-1736359020>

### BANK | Bleeding in banks halted, but stability to take time

- The Bangladesh Bank riding on immediate and proactive policy interventions has managed to stop financial bleeding in the banking sector, but achieving full stability will require more time, its officials say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bleeding-in-banks-halted-but-stability-to-take-time-1736274801>

### **Monetary policy likely in last week of January**

- Bangladesh Bank will soon announce its monetary policy for the second half of the ongoing fiscal year (2024-25) with the aim of addressing several economic challenges plaguing the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/monetary-policy-likely-last-week-january-3795146>

### **BANK | Govt to reduce its ownership in Grameen Bank from 25% to 5%**

- The government is set to reduce its ownership in Grameen Bank by lowering its shareholding from 25% to 5% and slim down its authority on the board by limiting its director appointments from three, including the chairman, to just one.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-reduce-its-ownership-grameen-bank-25-5-1037446>

### **TELECOM | Mobile internet users dropped by 4.4 Mn in November**

- The number of mobile internet subscribers in Bangladesh witnessed a significant drop of 4.4 Mn in November, contributing to an overall decline in internet subscribers to 132.8 Mn from that in October.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mobile-internet-users-dropped-44-lakh-november-3794346>

### **FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla's gas price hike proposal sparks industrial concerns**

- If implemented, the gas price increase could lead to widespread factory closures, job losses, and a decline in industrial output, industry owners said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/petrobanglas-gas-price-hike-proposal-sparks-industrial-concerns-1037406>

### **FUEL & POWER | Power producers demand payment of half of dues within 10 days to avert Ramadan blackout**

- Local independent power producers (IPPs) have urged the government to clear at least half of their outstanding dues, approximately BDT 90 Bn, within 10 days to prevent power shortages during the upcoming Ramadan in March and the subsequent rice-growing season, which requires heavy irrigation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/power-producers-demand-payment-half-dues-within-10-days-avert-ramadan-blackout>

### **Beza to focus on 5 economic zones, attract USD 5.5 Bn in 2 years**

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) is focusing on making five economic zones fully functional within the next two years in order to attract USD 5.5 Bn in investments and create over 0.2 Mn job opportunities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beza-focus-5-economic-zones-attract-55b-2-years-3794316>

### **Beza cannot ensure gas, electricity supply to private EZs: Executive chair**

- While a roadmap has been prepared to ensure gas and electricity supply for government economic zones, the new Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) administration has not developed a similar plan for private zones.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/beza-cannot-ensure-gas-electricity-supply-private-ezs-executive-chair-1037431>

### **TOBACCO | Govt bans import of e-cigarettes**

- The commerce ministry today issued a notification through a gazette, saying that e-cigarettes have been added to the list of banned items under the Import Policy Order 2021-2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-bans-import-e-cigarettes-3793901>

### **BANK | Digital banking transactions see steady growth**

- Transactions through digital and paperless banking system are gradually increasing in the country, with an expansion of the prevalence of ATMs, POS terminals and CRMs, reports BSS.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/digital-banking-transactions-see-steady-growth-1736183098>

### **BANK | Lawlessness in industries impacting banks' cash flow: BAB chief**

- Lawlessness in industrial hubs has emerged as a major challenge for the economy, badly impacting cash flow to the banking sector, says Abdul Hai Sarker, newly appointed chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lawlessness-in-industries-impacting-banks-cash-flow-bab-chief-1736182993>

**NBFI | NBFIs' bad loans surge to record BDT 261.63 Bn**

- Defaulted loans at the country's non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) reached a record 36% of all loans disbursed by them as of September 2024, a level that sector people described as a reflection of "massive irregularities and scams" seven to eight years ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbfis-bad-loans-surge-record-tk-26163cr-3793626>

**Fuel & Power | Major gas price hike in the works for industrials**

- Industrial and captive power connections would soon have to pay a much higher tariff for gas usage after the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources decided in principle to implement a new pricing structure to reflect the fluctuating global market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/major-gas-price-hike-the-works-industrials-3793646>

**Bhomra land port posts BDT 162.4 Mn revenue in first half of FY25**

- Bhomra land port in Satkhira has posted an impressive revenue of BDT 162.4 Mn from the export of various products to India in the first half of the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY), according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bhomra-land-port-posts-tk1624cr-revenue-first-half-fy25-1036026>

**NBR now plans to double taxes on motorbikes, AC, refrigerator makers**

- Currently, these industries pay a 10% tax on their income and a 2% advance income tax (AIT) on the import of machinery, parts, and equipment, which was supposed to remain in effect until 2032

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-now-plans-double-taxes-motorbike-ac-refrigerator-makers-1036571>

**Direct tax expenditure declined to BDT 1.15 Tn in FY22**

- Bangladesh's direct tax expenditure, a tax subsidy that includes rebates, exemptions, and reduced rates offered by the revenue authorities, fell 8% year-on-year to BDT 1.15 Tn in fiscal 2021-22, according to the tax expenditure estimation report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/direct-tax-expenditure-declined-tk-115-lakh-crore-fy22-3793406>

**Inflation eased slightly in Dec but still above 10%**

- Bangladesh concluded another year staring at prices of essential items taking a wild ride, the central bank scrambling to further tighten the money supply and penny-pinching among limited income people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-eased-slightly-dec-still-above-10-3793631>

**RMG | Investment in product tracking tech fuels RMG accessories growth**

- According to data from the Bangladesh Garments Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA), the number of factories producing RFID locally has increased from 5-6 five years ago to 30 now.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/investment-product-tracking-tech-fuels-rmg-accessories-growth-1035776>

**CERAMICS | Exports of ceramic products drop by 2% in FY '24**

- The ceramic sector in Bangladesh, despite its impressive growth in recent years, faced a setback in the fiscal year 2023-24, as there was a decline in both exports and direct employment compared to the previous year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/exports-of-ceramic-products-drop-by-20pc-in-fy-24>

**RMG | RMG accessories expo to begin in Dhaka from Jan 8**

- The 14th edition of the International Garment Accessories and Packaging Expo (GAPEXPO) 2025 will be held in Dhaka from January 8 to 11. The four-day exhibition will showcase garment accessories such as buttons, packaging products, hangers, zippers, machinery, yarn, and fabrics at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-accessories-expo-begin-dhaka-jan-8-3792801>

**NBR plans to phase out tax exemptions**

- "Along with the VAT, various steps are being taken to increase the tax base in the case of income tax," the NBR said in a statement on Saturday night. As a part of ongoing efforts to phase out the practice of providing income tax exemptions, several provisions have already been repealed or amended, the statement said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-plans-phase-out-tax-exemptions-3792831>

### **RMG | Home textile exports bounce back**

- Home textile exports grew by 7.85% year-on-year in the July-December period of the current fiscal year to USD 410.81 Mn while it was negative two to three months ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/home-textile-exports-bounce-back-3792841>

### **ADB to provide USD 1 Bn annually for Bangladesh's inclusive development**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to provide USD 1 Bn annually to support Bangladesh's inclusive development in climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adb-provide-1billion-annually-bangladeshs-inclusive-development-1035371>

### **Squeezed by inflation, people seek refuge in mini-packs**

- People are switching to shampoo mini-packs from regular bottles, women are sacrificing their tiny luxuries of cosmetic puffs while households are embracing cheap but substandard detergents for laundry: this is exactly what happens when brutal price pressures push around 7.8 Mn people below the poverty line in just two years and stalk another 10 Mn to do so.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/squeezed-inflation-people-seek-refuge-mini-packs-3792856>

### **Unemployed population rises by 0.17 Mn in one year: BBS**

- The number of unemployed in Bangladesh has increased by 0.17 Mn within a year, as the number of people engaged in work or participating in the labour force has significantly decreased, a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics survey revealed today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/unemployment-jumps-266-lakh-jul-sep-bbs-1035711>

### **Exports hit USD 50 Bn in 2024**

- Bangladesh's exports hit USD 50 Bn in 2024, buoyed by a sharp December spike, providing the much-anticipated breather for an economy facing multiple headwinds, including external account pressures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exports-hit-50b-2024-3790691>

### **VAT hike won't impact inflation or prices of essentials: Finance adviser**

- The increase in value-added tax (VAT) on 43 goods and services will not significantly drive overall inflation or lead to substantial commodity price hikes that negatively affect ordinary consumers, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said today (2 January), assuring the public.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/vat-hike-wont-impact-inflation-or-prices-essentials-finance-adviser-1033166>

### **Nov pvt sector credit growth declines**

- The private-sector credit growth fell significantly in November 2024 mainly due to a lower demand for loans, particularly for trade financing, amid ongoing uncertainties along with higher interest rates on lending, bankers say.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/nov-pvt-sector-credit-growth-declines>

### **Inflation-driven REER rise dents trade competitiveness**

- Bangladesh's currency gets overvalued driven by higher domestic inflation compared to its trading economies with the prospect of export and remittance losing out, economists and businesspeople say.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/inflation-driven-reer-rise-dents-trade-competitiveness>

### **Max dollar spread BDT 1: BB**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday asked banks to keep a maximum of BDT 1 as a spread between the buying and selling rates of the USD. This directive was issued as some commercial lenders charged higher rates when selling the greenback, taking advantage of the local forex market volatility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/max-dollar-spread-tk-1-bb-3790676>

### **TRADE | Container handling at private ICDs rose 16% in 2024**

- Six out of the 21 private inland container depots (ICDs) have come up as the major handlers of export and import-laden containers in the just concluded year of 2024, when business in the ICDs rose 16% year-on-year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/container-handling-private-icds-rose-16-2024-3791936>

### **RMG | Keya Group's textile closure to leave 8,000 workers jobless by May**

- Keya Group has announced permanent closure of four factories under its textile wing, located in the Jarun area of Konabari, Gazipur, from 1 May this year, due to severe financial difficulties.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/keya-groups-textile-closure-leave-8000-workers-jobless-may-1033631>

## Important News: Stocks

### **ISLAMIBANK | Embezzlement of BDT 9.93 Bn from Islami Bank: ACC to sue 54, including S Alam's son Ahsanul**

- The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is set to file a case against 54 people, including S Alam's son Ahsanul Alam, over alleged embezzlement of nearly BDT 9.94 Bn from an Islami Bank branch.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/tk993cr-embezzlement-islami-bank-acc-sue-54-including-s-alams-son-ahsanul>

### **SALAMCRST | What S Alam Cold Rolled Steels says about assets auction**

- S Alam Cold Rolled Steels – the only capital market-listed company owned by the S Alam Group – stated that it has been severely affected by unforeseen circumstances beyond its control.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/what-s-alam-cold-rolled-steels-says-about-assets-auction-1038236>

### **EXCHANGE | Listed firms' profit drops 24% amid economic slowdown, political turmoil**

- Listed companies across all sectors saw their profits fall by around 24% on average year-on-year during the last January-September period, due mainly to an economic slowdown and widespread political turmoil, according to an unofficial estimate.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/listed-firms-profit-drops-24-amid-economic-slowdown-political-turmoil-3795171>

### **GENNEXT | DSE demotes Generation Next Fashions to Z category**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Generation Next Fashions to the Z category, commonly referred to as the junk stocks category, due to its failure to hold the annual general meeting (AGM) for the fiscal year 2023-24.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-demotes-generation-next-fashions-z-category-1037401>

### **EXCHANGE | As trade dries up, stock exchanges turn to FDRs for survival**

- The country's two stock exchanges logged operating losses in the last fiscal year thanks to sluggish trading activities, according to official data, compelling the markets to resort to their fixed deposit income to avoid a net loss.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trade-dries-stock-exchanges-turn-fdrs-survival-3794351>

### **EXCHANGE | Govt to incentivise companies to go public**

- The interim government of Bangladesh will give incentives for encouraging both large private and public firms to get listed in the stock market, according to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-incentivise-companies-go-public-3794331>

### **RENATA | Renata ships first batch of psychiatric disorder medicines to US**

- The product, marketed as Sperid locally, was manufactured at Renata's Bangladesh facility approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, the company said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renata-ships-first-batch-psychiatric-disorder-medicines-us-3793376>

### **CITYBANK | City Bank data breach: Client financial statements sold on underground forums**

- In a recent cybersecurity breach in the country, City Bank PLC has had sensitive client financial statements exposed and sold on underground hacking forums, according to a recent blog post by the Bangladesh Cyber Security Intelligence (BCSI).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/city-bank-data-breach-client-financial-statements-sold-underground-forums-3793091>

### **BIFC | BIFC shows signs of dying: Auditor**

- The cumulative loss of the scam-hit non-bank financial institution (NBFI) is BDT 13.58 Bn as of December 2023. Its total liabilities exceeded total assets by BDT 12.02 Bn, said its auditor in a qualified opinion published on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bifc-shows-signs-of-dying-auditor-1736183057>

### **EXCHANGE | City Bank Capital corrects position on its GDP estimation**

- City Bank Capital Resources Limited has said it "inadvertently" assumed the country's GDP at USD 300 Bn based on electricity consumptions only. In a clarification today, it said, "We understand and acknowledge that GDP involves several elements like productivity, trade, workforce dynamics and many other factors other than electricity consumption."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/city-bank-capital-rectifies-position-its-gdp-estimation-1035936>

## **EXCHANGE | IPO of Borak Real Estate rejected on suspicion of inflated earnings**

- The stock market watchdog has recently rejected an IPO proposal of Borak Real Estate amid a dried-up IPO flow, owing to concerns that earnings might have been inflated to influence the price of primary shares.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ipo-of-borak-real-estate-rejected-on-suspicion-of-inflated-earnings-1736096353>

## **BRACBANK | BB finds BDT 8.2 Mn mismatch in BRAC Bank vault, books**

- Ekram Kabir, head of communications of BRAC Bank, told The Daily Star that the bank immediately took legal action against the person involved as soon as the matter was identified. "We have already recovered BDT 4.7 Mn and are confident about recovering the remaining amount soon," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-finds-tk-8244-lakh-mismatch-brac-bank-vault-books-3791801>

## **STANCERAM | Factory closure for a year piles up Standard Ceramics losses**

- Standard Ceramics Industries – listed on the capital market since the 1990s – is grappling with financial challenges and has been unable to reopen its factory, which has been closed for over a year while losses continue to mount.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/factory-closure-year-piles-standard-ceramics-losses-1033651>

## **FIRSTSBANK | First Security's MD sent on leave for loan irregularities**

- First Security Islami Bank PLC has forcefully sent its managing director, Syed Waseque Md Ali, on leave due to his alleged involvement in loan irregularities with companies linked to S Alam Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/first-securitys-md-sent-leave-loan-irregularities-3791756>



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### 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 | Research Analyst   | <a href="mailto:hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com">hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com</a>     | 01708 805 224 |
| 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 |
| Rakibul Hasan              | Research Associate | <a href="mailto:rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com">rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com</a>       | 01708 805 229 |
| Md Istiaz Uddin            | Research Associate | <a href="mailto:mistiaz.uddin@bracepl.com">mistiaz.uddin@bracepl.com</a>       | 01708 805 202 |

#### International Trade and Sales

|                      |     |  |               |
|----------------------|-----|--|---------------|
| Ahsanur Rahman Bappi | CEO | <a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a> | 01730 357 991 |
|----------------------|-----|--|---------------|

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Website

Address

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

Phone: +88 02 222282446-47  
Fax: +88 02 222282452