

Weekly Market Update

DSEX ended in Red (-1.16%) in the week

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-1.16%) lost -60.51 points and closed the week at 5,133.92 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-1.56%) lost -30.00 points and stood at 1,894.27 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.97%) lost -11.30 points and stood at 1,150.64 points. The large cap index CDSET (-1.25%) lost -13.22 points and closed at 1,047.99 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -1.58%, -2.34%, -1.56%, -1.70%. respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 18.9 billion (USD 155 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 3.8 billion (Δ% Week: +9.1%)
Market P/E: 14.6x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note on Sunday (-0.74%), and remained negative throughout the week on Monday (-0.08%), Tuesday(-0.02%), Wednesday (-0.16%) and Thursday (-0.17%) respectively.

Sectoral Performance

· All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. NBF I experienced the highest loss of -3.66% followed by Bank (-3.15%), Life Insurance (-2.80%), Mutual Fund (-2.47%), and General Insurance (-1.39%).

· Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 1.23% followed by Telecommunication (-1.19%), Pharmaceutical (-1.17%), Fuel & Power (-0.86%), and Engineering (+2.25%).

Macroeconomic Arena

EUR 14.45 Mn deals signed with Germany for sustainability. BIDA creates 'FDI Heatmap' prioritising 19 sectors to boost investment. Govt raises savings rates to cool inflation, woo investors. FUEL & POWER | Govt rejects local energy giant's plea to revive cancelled contract. TRADE | NBR moves to activate Bangladesh Single Window system. RMG | Textile millers urge cenbank steps to clear USD 44 Mn payment stuck in banks. Farm credit disbursements fall 14% in July-November. CPD teams up with Denmark for economic reform, green transition. Bangladesh's foreign debt exceeds USD 104 Bn. FBCCI's Anti-Discrimination Reform Council calls on govt to revoke VAT hike. BANK | Cenbank makes non-resident taka account usage easier for Bangladeshi expats.

Tax hikes: Govt chooses easy option, burdens public with additional BDT 122.7 Bn. External debt rises slightly. Bangladesh, Pakistan to form joint business council. BANK | BB allows local agent firms to open FCA. BANK | BB arming itself with new law to manage bank ownership transfer. Inflation control in focus of next monetary policy. Introduce national minimum wage, uniform labour law. TELECOM | BTRC allows flexible mobile data package offerings. NBF I | Independent directors not liable for finance company's default: BB. BANK | BDT 23 Bn irregularities detected in Nagad: Governor. IMF to crank up pressure to boost tax collection. Forex reserve dips to USD 20 Bn after clearing ACU bill. BBS takes BDT 186.53 Mn project to do 5 surveys. Ctg-based group siphoned off USD 20 Bn abroad: BB governor.

Stock Market Arena

ACI | Another ACI director to buy 1.51 Mn shares. ISLAMIBANK | BB unearths fresh irregularities in Islami Bank. RAHIMTEXT | Rahim Textile sees robust profit growth of 96% in Jul-Dec. SIBL | Social Islami Bank allegedly hid BDT 80 Bn in defaulted loans with central bank's help. BSC | BSC to sell two fire-damaged ships as scrap at BDT 500 Mn. EXCHANGE | Union Bank, Sea Pearl, Sonali Life downgraded to Z category. BEXIMCO | Govt to find jobs for 40,000 workers laid off by Beximco. EXCHANGE | BSEC halts BDT 50 Mn fundraising by Doer Services. MONNOCERA, MONNOFABR | Monno Ceramics sells entire Monno Fabrics stake for revival. SSSTEEL, BANKASIA | Bank Asia to auction off SS Steel assets to recoup BDT 1.68 Bn debt. EXCHANGE | DSE elite club: Beximco, Summit, Islami Bank slip, while Walton, Prime Bank, Kohinoor gain. EXCHANGE | Mutual fund industry struggles as investor confidence wanes. UNILEVERCL, ICB | ICB acquires BDT 3.38 Bn worth of Unilever Consumer shares in 7 months.

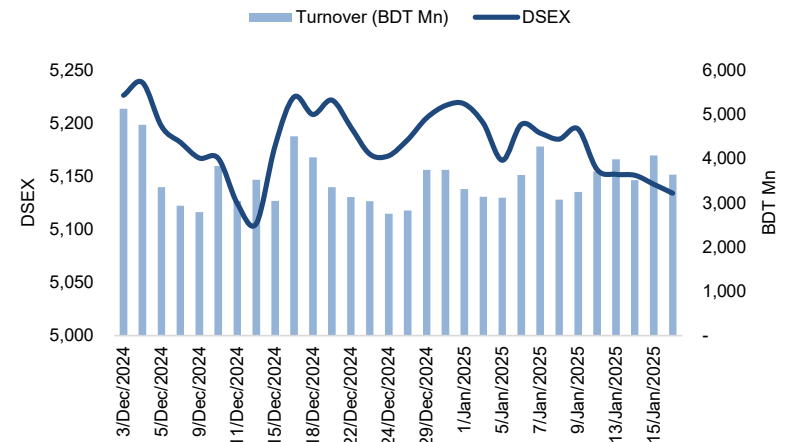
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,133.92	5,194.43	-60.51	5,216.44	-1.16%	-1.58%
DS30	1,894.27	1,924.27	-30.00	1,939.73	-1.56%	-2.34%
DSES	1,150.64	1,161.94	-11.30	1,168.90	-0.97%	-1.56%
CDSET	1,047.99	1,061.21	-13.22	1,066.09	-1.25%	-1.70%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,569,403	6,602,932	-0.51%
	Mn USD	53,848	54,122	
Turnover	Mn BDT	18,904	17,330	9.08%
	Mn USD	155	142	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	3,781	3,466	9.08%
	Mn USD	31	28	
Volume	Mn Shares	719	655	9.78%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
KPPL	17.1	13.3	+28.6%	1,249	158.0	NM	NM
CVOPRL	120.3	102.1	+17.8%	3,341	93.3	55.7x	10.7x
CENTRALPHL	11.0	9.4	+17.0%	1,318	237.7	NM	1.6x
MONNOCERA	72.6	62.2	+16.7%	2,739	96.1	NM	0.9x
ALLTEX	11.9	10.2	+16.7%	666	23.2	59.5x	0.6x
TILIL	37.0	32.2	+14.9%	1,480	19.5	NM	NM
YPL	11.7	10.3	+13.6%	862	26.6	NM	2.2x
NEWLINE	7.7	6.9	+11.6%	605	92.0	NM	0.3x
DACCADYE	15.6	14.0	+11.4%	1,360	64.5	NM	0.5x
ASIATICLAB	41.9	37.9	+10.6%	5,128	453.3	17.8x	0.8x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
FINEFOODS	207.0	254.5	-18.7%	2,893	602.0	89.6x	16.9x
MIDLANDBNK	27.6	33.8	-18.3%	17,655	450.5	16.0x	1.9x
FAREASTFIN	3.1	3.5	-11.4%	509	8.2	NM	NM
SONALILIFE	41.1	46.0	-10.7%	1,952	18.8	NM	NM
SBACBANK	7.9	8.8	-10.2%	6,511	58.9	7.7x	0.6x
ISLAMICFIN	9.7	10.8	-10.2%	1,361	12.6	NM	2.2x
PRAGATILIF	112.6	125.0	-9.9%	3,665	39.4	NM	NM
CAPMIBBLMF	8.6	9.5	-9.5%	575	6.0	NM	1.0x
UNIONBANK	4.4	4.8	-8.3%	4,560	11.6	11.9x	0.3x
GIB	4.5	4.9	-8.2%	4,666	32.5	8.6x	NM

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
KBPPWBIL	175.5	161.1	+8.9%	17,213	634.8	NM	14.7x
FINEFOODS	207.0	254.5	-18.7%	2,893	602.0	89.6x	16.9x
GP	331.1	332.4	-0.4%	447,084	592.3	12.6x	7.7x
ORIONINFU	381.4	355.1	+7.4%	7,765	530.5	NM	23.9x
AFTABAUTO	39.1	37.2	+5.1%	4,127	477.8	NM	0.8x
ASIATICLAB	41.9	37.9	+10.6%	5,128	453.3	17.8x	0.8x
MIDLANDBNK	27.6	33.8	-18.3%	17,655	450.5	16.0x	1.9x
BSC	88.7	91.0	-2.5%	13,530	351.8	4.7x	0.8x
OIMEX	30.5	28.2	+8.2%	2,229	332.3	30.7x	8.8x
AGNISYSL	25.3	25.6	-1.2%	1,836	327.9	21.3x	1.5x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ACTIVEFINE	8.7	+10.1%	2,087	NM	0.4x
ADNTEL	93.3	+9.5%	6,032	17.2x	2.9x
ACI	150.1	+7.5%	13,154	NM	2.0x
BSRMLTD	81.4	+7.1%	24,305	5.1x	0.5x
DUTCHBANGL	51.0	+6.5%	44,820	7.2x	0.9x
RUNNERAUTO	27.7	+6.1%	3,145	27.4x	0.4x
MPETROLEUM	205.4	+4.6%	22,228	3.8x	0.8x
GP	331.1	+2.5%	447,084	12.6x	7.7x
WALTONHIL	499.2	+2.4%	151,222	11.6x	1.3x
PRIMEBANK	23.9	+2.1%	27,062	4.3x	0.7x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,412.7	1,458.7	1,429.64	-3.15%	-1.18%
NBFI	1,114.7	1,157.1	1,188.21	-3.66%	-6.19%
Mutual Fund	586.2	601.1	603.30	-2.47%	-2.83%
General Insurance	2,661.8	2,699.3	2,772.79	-1.39%	-4.00%
Life Insurance	1,723.5	1,773.2	1,827.34	-2.80%	-5.68%
Telecommunication	5,275.7	5,339.5	5,185.99	-1.19%	+1.73%
Pharmaceutical	2,885.1	2,919.3	2,959.70	-1.17%	-2.52%
Fuel & Power	1,086.9	1,096.4	1,108.63	-0.86%	-1.96%
Cement	1,843.0	1,901.7	1,957.26	-3.08%	-5.84%
Services & Real Estate	962.4	989.6	1,013.65	-2.74%	-5.05%
Engineering	2,537.4	2,481.5	2,496.75	+2.25%	+1.63%
Food & Allied	16,580.1	16,786.1	17,177.59	-1.23%	-3.48%
IT	1,975.8	2,038.6	1,994.92	-3.08%	-0.96%
Textile	1,082.5	1,091.9	1,093.38	-0.86%	-0.99%
Paper & Printing	3,974.8	4,013.2	3,998.20	-0.96%	-0.59%
Tannery	1,986.9	2,007.1	2,020.25	-1.01%	-1.65%
Jute	13,649.0	13,713.0	14,455.60	-0.47%	-5.58%
Ceramics	360.2	349.3	359.12	+3.14%	+0.31%
Miscellaneous	4,300.4	4,292.2	4,252.62	+0.19%	+1.12%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	414.6	570.3	-27.31%	+11.63%	8.6x	0.7x
NBFI	86.5	91.2	-5.13%	+2.43%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	147.5	111.3	+32.57%	+4.14%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	110.9	98.8	+12.21%	+3.11%	13.7x	1.2x
Life Insurance	114.4	122.4	-6.58%	+3.21%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	188.9	162.7	+16.08%	+5.30%	14.6x	4.4x
Pharmaceutical	549.2	445.8	+23.17%	+15.40%	13.9x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	152.0	140.1	+8.53%	+4.26%	14.0x	0.6x
Cement	20.0	20.0	+0.27%	+0.56%	14.8x	1.9x
Services & Real Estate	75.9	60.4	+25.65%	+2.13%	17.6x	0.4x
Engineering	410.4	292.7	+40.20%	+11.51%	12.5x	0.9x
Food & Allied	307.5	285.7	+7.62%	+8.62%	16.2x	4.3x
IT	136.8	177.7	-23.05%	+3.84%	19.2x	1.7x
Textile	363.2	288.8	+25.75%	+10.18%	NM	0.7x
Paper & Printing	70.6	65.2	+8.26%	+1.98%	NM	0.8x
Tannery	25.1	27.2	-7.75%	+0.70%	67.7x	1.5x
Jute	30.3	28.1	+7.83%	+0.85%	NM	NM
Ceramics	56.4	15.6	+262.80%	+1.58%	NM	1.0x
Miscellaneous	305.7	221.3	+38.15%	+8.57%	42.9x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	22.4	-8.2%	1,680	18.8x	1.0x
BXPBARMA	75.1	-8.0%	33,503	5.6x	0.7x
CONFIDCEM	52.2	-7.9%	4,502	5.0x	0.7x
RENATA	590.1	-7.1%	67,682	21.2x	2.0x
IDLC	30.4	-7.0%	12,637	7.2x	0.6x
LHB	50.2	-6.9%	58,301	14.4x	2.9x
IPDC	17.1	-6.6%	6,663	21.2x	1.0x
MIRAKHTER	29.3	-6.4%	3,539	12.0x	0.6x
HEIDELBCEM	208.1	-6.0%	11,758	32.0x	2.9x
DBH	36.6	-5.9%	7,279	7.3x	0.8x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

EUR 14.45 Mn deals signed with Germany for sustainability

- The deals, valued at EUR 14.45 Mn, focus on transforming the textile sector, enhancing climate adaptation efforts, and advancing sustainable electric mobility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu1445m-deals-signed-germany-sustainability-3800306>

BIDA creates 'FDI Heatmap' prioritising 19 sectors to boost investment

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has created an FDI Heatmap, prioritising 19 sectors to boost foreign direct investment (FDI), which currently stands at a mere 0.3% of Gross domestic product (GDP).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-creates-fdi-heatmap-prioritising-19-sectors-boost-investment-1043876>

Govt raises savings rates to cool inflation, woo investors

- The interim government has increased interest rates on various national savings certificates to upwards of 12% to make these instruments more attractive to savers and to cool inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-raises-savings-rates-cool-inflation-woo-investors-3800341>

US for labour law reform to extend rights to EPZs

- The United States has called for Bangladesh to reform its labour laws to extend the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining to export-processing zones and special economic zones.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/us-for-labour-law-reform-to-extend-rights-to-epzs-1736962019>

FUEL & POWER | Govt rejects local energy giant's plea to revive cancelled contract

- The Energy and Mineral Resources Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources rejected the request of the Summit LNG II Terminal Co. Ltd. in this regard, following recommendation from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-rejects-local-energy-giants-plea-to-revive-cancelled-contract-1736961933>

TRADE | NBR moves to activate Bangladesh Single Window system

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced that certificates, licences and permits (CLP) issued manually by seven state agencies will no longer be accepted for duty assessment and customs clearance from February 1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-moves-activate-bangladesh-single-window-system-3800321>

RMG | Textile millers urge cenbank steps to clear USD 44 Mn payment stuck in banks

- Textile millers have requested that the Bangladesh Bank take necessary steps to clear an outstanding payment of USD 44.31 Mn owed to 66 factories for matured bills of yarn and fabric supplied through various banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/textile-millers-urge-cenbank-steps-clear-44m-payment-stuck-banks-1043241>

BANK | Suppliers' credit report requirement rules relaxed

- Credit reports for foreign suppliers will not be required for imports up to USD 30,000 against proforma invoices issued directly from abroad, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) circular issued Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/suppliers-credit-report-requirement-rules-relaxed-1736961834>

BANK | Farm credit disbursements fall 14% in July-November

- The loans disbursed came down to BDT 130.81 Bn during the July-November period of FY'25 from BDT 152.80 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to the Bangladesh Bank's (BB) latest statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/farm-credit-disbursements-fall-14pc-in-july-november-1736961777>

CPD teams up with Denmark for economic reform, green transition

- Time has come to work on institutional strengthening, good governance, and make the systems transparent and accountable for Bangladesh, said Christian Brix Møller, the Danish ambassador to Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/cpd-teams-denmark-economic-reform-green-transition-3799311>

Bangladesh's foreign debt exceeds USD 104 Bn

- Bangladesh's foreign debt stock has exceeded USD 104 Bn, with the government and public sector loans totalling USD 84.45 Bn. The remaining USD 19.91 Bn has been taken by the private sector, bringing the total foreign debt to USD 104.36 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/foreign-debt-exceeds-104b>

FBCCI's Anti-Discrimination Reform Council calls on govt to revoke VAT hike

- The Anti-Discrimination Reform Council of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) has demanded the government withdraw its decision to increase VAT and supplementary duties (SD) on nearly 100 products.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/fbccis-anti-discrimination-reform-council-calls-govt-revoke-vat-hike-1042676>

BANK | Cenbank makes non-resident taka account usage easier for Bangladeshi expats

- The Bangladesh Bank has streamlined the process for Non-Resident Taka Accounts (NITAs), allowing online transactions and removing caps on deposits and withdrawals to make it easier for expatriate Bangladeshis to access and utilise the country's banking system.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-makes-non-resident-taka-account-usage-easier-bangladeshi-expats-1043126>

FUEL & POWER | BPDB seeks BDT 80 Bn urgent subsidy payment from government

- The Bangladesh Power Development Board has sought a BDT 80 Bn urgent fund from the government to maintain uninterrupted power supply across the country. The government owes BPDB around BDT 265 Bn in subsidy payments. It will pay the subsidy to fill the gap created by BPDB's sale of electricity to bulk consumers at lower-than-production rates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bpdb-seeks-tk-80b-urgent-subsidy-payment-from-government-1736875718>

FY25 RADP may see BDT 490 Bn cuts

- The interim government is likely to finalise a BDT 2.16 Tn Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) for FY25 by trimming down current allocations by BDT 490 Bn, officials said on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fy25-radp-may-see-tk-490b-cuts-1736788293>

FUEL & POWER | BDT 45 Bn pipeline planned to feed Bhola gas to energy-poor South

- The government plans to build a BDT 45 Bn pipeline from Bhola to Khulna. This will integrate the island's natural gas into the national grid. It aims to address energy shortages in the south and south-western regions. Additionally, it will enable gas-based power plants, industries, and employment-driven economic growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/tk4500cr-pipeline-planned-feed-bhola-gas-energy-poor-south-1043201>

BANK | BFIU crackdown after Aug 5: BDT 150 Bn of 366 people, entities frozen

- The bank accounts of 366 individuals and entities with a BDT 150 Bn combined balance were frozen between August and December last year over money laundering allegations. About 225 investigation reports, including those about suspicious transactions, were sent to the police's Criminal Investigation Department and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in August-December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/bfiu-crackdown-after-aug-5-tk-15000cr-366-people-entities-frozen-3799561>

ITFC to provide USD 2.75 Bn annual financing support

- The Jeddah-based International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) would provide Bangladesh with USD 2.75 Bn annual financing support for the development of energy and agricultural sectors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/itfc-to-provide-us275b-annual-financing-support-1736787556>

Tax hikes: Govt chooses easy option, burdens public with additional BDT 122.7 Bn

- Despite years of advocating for progressive taxation, the government has opted for a regressive tax approach to meet the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) condition of collecting an additional BDT 122.70 Bn in revenue.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-hikes-govt-chooses-easy-option-burdens-public-additional-tk12270cr-1042376>

External debt rises slightly

- Although Bangladesh's foreign debt slightly increased in the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2024-25, the debt of private sector and public sector corporations decreased due to a lack of confidence in the banking sector and payment delays.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/external-debt-rises-slightly-3798886>

Bangladesh, Pakistan to form joint business council

- The apex trade bodies of Bangladesh and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) yesterday to form a joint business council to strengthen trade between the two countries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-pakistan-form-joint-business-council-3798866>

FICCI expresses concern over hikes in tax, SD

- The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has expressed serious concerns over the government's recent hike in value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duty (SD) without prior consultation with stakeholders, warning of potential adverse effects on business sustainability, consumer costs, and overall economic stability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ficci-expresses-concern-over-hikes-tax-sd-3798421>

BANK | Deposit growth rises for three straight months

- The country's banking sector has seen steady deposit growth over the past three months, driven by growing confidence in healthy banks and reduced lending to shell companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/deposit-growth-rises-three-straight-months-1042351>

BANK | BB allows local agent firms to open FCA

- Bangladesh Bank has allowed local companies working as agents to open and maintain foreign currency accounts (FCA) in the name of Agent's Retention Quota (ARQ) to facilitate foreign trade.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-allows-local-agent-firms-to-open-fca-1736788163>

MISCELLANEOUS | Paint makers decry tax hikes as demand slumps

- The local paint industry is reeling from increased supplementary duties (SD), which threaten both revenue and the survival of manufacturers amid rising production costs and shrinking consumer demand, according to industry insiders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/paint-makers-decry-tax-hikes-demand-slumps-3798891>

BANK | BB arming itself with new law to manage bank ownership transfer, stem future legal tangles

- The government is developing a special law to empower the central bank to regulate bank ownership changes, mergers, liquidations, and acquisitions. The move comes in response to concerns over the ownership of certain banks previously controlled by individuals and conglomerates linked to the ousted Awami League government.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-arming-itself-new-law-manage-bank-ownership-transfer-stem-future-legal-tangles>

Inflation control in focus of next monetary policy

- Current tightfisted monetary stance may last another six months as the central bank starts crafting its upcoming monetary policy with top priority on curbing inflationary pressure on the economy by keeping exchange rate stable.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-control-in-focus-of-next-monetary-policy-1736702877>

Rising interest rates deter new investment, expansion plans

- "Businesses are adopting a wait-and-see approach and will take one to one and a half years to consider fresh investment with the high interest rates," said Rupali Haque Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rising-interest-rates-deter-new-investment-expansion-plans-3798106>

Introduce national minimum wage, uniform labour law

- Experts and members of a labour reform commission formed by the government have suggested the introduction of a national minimum wage for workers and a uniform labour law applicable to employees both inside and outside the Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/introduce-national-minimum-wage-uniform-labour-law-3798101>

Business revenues dropping due to high inflation: BCI

- High inflation in the country has led to a decline in sales revenues across various sectors, while higher interest rates have further exacerbated the situation, Leaders of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) said today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/business-revenues-dropping-due-high-inflation-bci-1041406>

TELECOM | BTRC allows flexible mobile data package offerings

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has published a significant update on its guidelines, giving mobile network operators (MNOs) a greater flexibility in data package offering and promoting digital inclusion across the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-allows-flexible-mobile-data-package-offerings-1736702116>

NBFI | Independent directors not liable for finance company's default: BB

- Under the existing rules, independent directors, though separate from the shareholding of a finance company, were deemed defaulters when the company defaulted.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/independent-directors-not-liable-finance-companys-default-bb-3798081>

BANK | BDT 23 Bn irregularities detected in Nagad: Governor

- The Bangladesh Bank has so far detected irregularities amounting to BDT 23 Bn including excess creation of e-money worth BDT 6 Bn in mobile financial services provider Nagad.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cenbank-finds-tk2300-crore-irregularities-nagads-operations-governor-1041386>

BANK | Cenbank plans real-time FX reporting to curb manipulation

- The Bangladesh Bank plans to introduce real-time reporting of dollar purchases and sales in banks to curb manipulation and enhance transparency in the foreign exchange market. In addition to real-time reporting, the meeting also covered the dollar reference rate, export bill discounting, and dollar forward rates, according to officials and bankers present.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-plans-real-time-fx-reporting-curb-manipulation-1041516>

Major overhaul of institutional, distribution flaws likely

- A government-formed task force to reframe development strategies for the economy is likely to submit its first report this week with focus on some key aspects, including containing inflation and bridging digital divide.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/major-overhaul-of-institutional-distribution-flaws-likely-1736617598>

Economy's health: Low pulse, high pressure

- The economy's pluses are currently beating low while the pressures from inflation and expectations are running high. The first quarter of the current fiscal year ended with sharply weaker growth, increased underutilization of labor, and deeply entrenched inflation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/analysis/economys-health-low-pulse-high-pressure-1039586>

IMF to crank up pressure to boost tax collection

- The International Monetary Fund is set to tighten the noose on the Bangladesh government over its dismal revenue mobilization by making the remaining fund disbursement under a USD 4.7 Bn loan conditional on meeting the tax collection target.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/imf-crank-pressure-boost-tax-collection-3797226>

Trade deficit narrows in Jul-Nov

- During the July-November period of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, the trade deficit -- the amount by which the cost of the country's imports exceeds the value of its exports -- stood at USD 7.88 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/trade-deficit-narrows-jul-nov-3797121>

Govt's VAT, SD hike on 100-plus products suicidal: DCCI

- Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DCCI) President Taskin Ahmed has urged the government to reduce expenses by 20% to save BDT 500 Bn and avoid burdening businesses with increased value-added tax (VAT), supplementary duty (SD), and gas prices.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govts-vat-sd-hike-on-100-plus-products-suicidal-dcci>

Forex reserve dips to USD 20 Bn after clearing ACU bill

- Bangladesh Bank's foreign exchange reserve has decreased to USD 20 Bn following the payment of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) import bill.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/forex-reserve-dips-to-20b-after-clearing-acu-bill>

BBS takes BDT 186.53 Mn project to do 5 surveys

- The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has undertaken a project involving BDT 186.53 Mn to conduct five surveys on industry and service-sectors, parallel to its ongoing BDT 5.8 Bn economic census aimed at collecting detailed data on all non-agricultural economic units across the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bbs-takes-tk-18653m-project-to-do-5-surveys>

Ctg-based group siphoned off USD 20 Bn abroad: BB governor

- A single group based in Chattogram has laundered USD 20 Bn abroad, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur on Saturday, reports UNB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ctg-based-group-siphoned-off-20b-abroad-bb-governor-1736616280>

Large loan restructuring: lessons learned from Hallmark

- Classified loans in Bangladesh have exceeded BDT 2.84 Tn. Various agencies are even talking of BDT 4 Tn to BDT 7 Tn of stressed assets in the banking sector, which tends to be 25-45% of the total loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/large-loan-restructuring-lessons-learned-hallmark-3797106>

BANK | Janata Bank to auction Ron Sikder's power plant over unpaid loan

- Janata Bank has issued an auction notice to recover a debt of approximately BDT 8.43 Bn from PowerPac Mutiara Jamalpur Power Plant Limited, owned by Ron Haque Sikder.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/janata-bank-auction-ron-sikders-power-plant-over-unpaid-loan-1038686>

BANK | Banks brace for stricter NPL rules, fear loss, eroding capital base

- All types of loans will be classified as non-performing after three months of being overdue – instead of the current six months – effective from April 2025, as the central bank aligns the rule with international best practices under Basel III.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-brace-stricter-npl-rules-fear-loss-eroding-capital-base-1039841>

FOOD & ALLIED | Pran to invest BDT 6 Bn more in poultry portfolio by 2027

- Local agro-processing giant Pran plans to invest an additional BDT 6 Bn in its poultry business within the next two years, responding to the country's growing demand for eggs and chicken.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pran-invest-tk-600cr-more-poultry-portfolio-2027-3796001>

ENGINEERING | MS rod prices jump by over BDT 5,000 in a month as demand grows

- After a six-month downturn, the country's steel market is showing signs of recovery, with prices of mild steel (MS) rods, a key construction material, surging BDT 5,000-6,000 per tonne over the past three weeks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ms-rod-prices-jump-over-tk5000-month-demand-grows-1038366>

BANK | Banks banking on treasuries, retail lending

- Dynamics of Bangladesh money market changes amid plummeting demand for formal credits due to persisting economic sluggishness, making banks look for alternatives like treasuries and retail lending, sources said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-banking-on-treasuries-retail-lending>

RMG | Apparel exports to US jump 41.6% in Nov 2024

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States, its largest single market, saw a remarkable 41.6% year-on-year growth in November 2024, reaching USD 613.91 Mn, up from USD 433.56 Mn in November 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-exports-us-grew-416-november-2024-1039951>

AVIATION | Local airlines worried over excise duty hike

- The government's recent decision to increase excise duty on domestic and international air tickets will have a serious negative impact on the aviation market, especially domestic passenger growth, said top officials of the country's air operators.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/local-airlines-worried-over-excise-duty-hike-3797131>

Important News: Stocks

ACI | Another ACI director to buy 1.51 Mn shares

- Shusmita Anis, director of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI), now expressed her intention to buy 1.5 Mn shares of the company. She is now serving as a nominated director on the board of publicly listed company ACI, and holds 1.47 Mn shares of the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/another-aci-director-buy-1515-lakh-shares-1043896>

ISLAMIBANK | BB unearths fresh irregularities in Islami Bank

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has unearthed fresh loan irregularities at Islami Bank Bangladesh, even after the board of directors was restructured following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government in August last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-unearths-fresh-irregularities-islami-bank-3800326>

RAHIMTEXT | Rahim Textile sees robust profit growth of 96% in Jul-Dec

- From July to December 2024, its net profit after tax increased to BDT 4.67 Mn, up from BDT 2.34 Mn at the same time as the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rahim-textile-sees-robust-profit-growth-96-jul-dec-1043901>

SIBL | Social Islami Bank allegedly hid BDT 80 Bn in defaulted loans with central bank's help

- A secret report from Bangladesh Bank has revealed that the central bank had facilitated Social Islami Bank in concealing defaulted loans amounting to BDT 79.26 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/social-islami-bank-allegedly-hid-tk8000-crore-defaulted-loans-central-banks-help>

BSC | BSC to sell two fire-damaged ships as scrap at BDT 500 Mn

- The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has decided to dispose of its two fire-damaged oil tankers, "Banglar Shourabh" and "Banglar Jyoti", for BDT 506 Mn, including value-added tax (VAT) and taxes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsc-sell-two-fire-damaged-ships-scrap-tk-50cr-3800111>

EXCHANGE | Union Bank, Sea Pearl, Sonali Life downgraded to Z category

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Union Bank, Sea Pearl Beach Resort, and Sonali Life Insurance to the Z category due to their failure to hold annual general meetings (AGMs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/union-bank-sea-pearl-sonali-life-downgraded-z-category-1043651>

BEXIMCO | Govt to find jobs for 40,000 workers laid off by Beximco

- The government is trying to find jobs for 40,000 laid-off workers of Beximco Group in factories within the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) and the Bangladesh Export Zones Authority (Beza), a senior labour ministry official said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-find-jobs-40000-workers-laid-beximco-3799516>

EXCHANGE | BSEC halts BDT 50 Mn fundraising by Doer Services

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has halted the subscription for qualified investors offer (QIO) by homegrown software firm Doer Services Ltd to raise BDT 50 Mn, following several media reports about the company's problematic client agreements and profitability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-halts-tk-5cr-fundraising-doer-services-3799501>

MONNOCERA, MONNOFABR | Monno Ceramics sells entire Monno Fabrics stake for revival

- Monno Ceramics Industries, a flagship company of Monno Group, has sold its entire 9.79% stake in sister concern Monno Fabrics, to revive its business by injecting fresh funds to expand its business and settle bank liabilities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/monno-ceramics-sells-entire-monno-fabrics-stake-revival-1042311>

EXCHANGE | BSEC resolves 85% of investor complaints thru CCAM in 2024

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) addressed around 85% of investor complaints submitted online through its Customer Complaints Address Module (CCAM) in 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-resolves-85pc-of-investor-complaints-thru-ccam-in-2024-1736784554>

GPHISPAT | BSEC seeks feedback on GPH Ispat's preference share proposal

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to seek the opinions of the stock exchanges regarding GPH Ispat Limited's application to issue preference shares worth BDT 5 Bn. GPH Ispat is one of the leading steel manufacturers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-seeks-feedback-gph-ispats-preference-share-proposal-1041486>

SSSTEEL, BANKASIA | Bank Asia to auction off SS Steel assets to recoup BDT 1.68 Bn debt

- Bank Asia has announced plans to auction the assets of publicly listed SS Steel Limited in a bid to recover an outstanding loan of BDT 1.68 Bn. An auction notice, published in daily newspapers today, invited interested buyers to submit price quotations by 30 January. The auction follows provisions of the Money Loan Court Act, 2003.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-asia-auction-ss-steel-assets-recoup-tk168cr-debt-1041436>

EXCHANGE | DSE elite club: Beximco, Summit, Islami Bank slip, while Walton, Prime Bank, Kohinoor gain

- Nine heavyweight firms, including Beximco Limited, Summit Power, Islami Bank, Heidelberg, Linde, and Orion Pharma, have dropped out of the Dhaka bourse's elite club of top 30 stocks due to their underperformance in the past three months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/87-listed-firms-join-dsex-beximco-islami-bank-dropped-ds30-1041131>

EXCHANGE | Mutual fund industry struggles as investor confidence wanes

- Mutual funds (MF) investors are in a tight corner as almost all the listed funds witnessed significant price erosion in 2024, reflecting the broader downtrend in the stock market. Except for one, all closed-end mutual funds saw price drops ranging from 5% to 50% year-on-year. Reliance One, the first scheme of Reliance Insurance Mutual Fund, the only exception, surged 73%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mutual-fund-industry-struggles-as-investor-confidence-wanes-1736698027>

UNILEVERCL, ICB | ICB acquires BDT 3.38 Bn worth of Unilever Consumer shares in 7 months

- In a strategic move to bolster its portfolio, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has acquired a 7.13% stake, worth approximately BDT 3.38 Bn, in Unilever Consumer Care Limited between April and November 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-acquires-tk338cr-worth-unilever-consumer-shares-7-months-1040611>

NBL | Troubled National Bank seeks BDT 10 Bn more from Cenbank

- National Bank Limited, a troubled private commercial bank, has approached the Bangladesh Bank with a request for an additional BDT 10 Bn in liquidity support, despite having already received BDT 40 Bn from the central bank recently.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/troubled-national-bank-seeks-tk1000cr-more-cenbank-1038371>

EXCHANGE | Special bonds dictate government's FY24 domestic borrowing

- The government issued long-term fixed-income instruments - referred to as special bonds - and banks purchased those to release funds to fertiliser importers and power producers. These bonds, with maturities of seven to eight years, pay interest coupons to banks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/special-bonds-dictate-governments-fy24-domestic-borrowing>

EXCHANGE | Market intermediaries face scrutiny amid low impact and eroding investor confidence

- The role of market intermediaries in the country has come under fresh scrutiny, with concerns raised about their low turnover rates and nominal contribution to market growth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/market-intermediaries-face-scrutiny-amid-low-impact-and-eroding-investor-confidence>

EXCHANGE | DSE outlines major reforms, including tax rebate, exposure limits

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will pursue a series of plans with the government authorities to develop the capital market, including a market-friendly tax policy and stock investment exposure limits for banks and financial institutions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-outlines-major-reforms-including-tax-rebate-exposure-limits-1039141>

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