

Weekly Market Update

DSEX ended in Green (+0.29%) in the week

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.29%) gained 15.17 points and closed the week at 5,199.62 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.19%) gained 3.69 points and stood at 1,930.97 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.99%) lost -11.54 points and stood at 1,155.10 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.38%) gained 4.04 points and closed at 1,065.48 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -0.32%, -0.45%, -1.18%, -0.06%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 13.9 billion (USD 114 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 3.5 billion (Δ% Week: +18.6%)

Market P/E: 14.7x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed four sessions during this week. The market started positively on Sunday (+0.39%), and remained positive throughout Monday (+0.2%) and Wednesday (+0.0%), but ended the week in negative on Thursday (-0.4%).

Sectoral Performance

· Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Bank booked the highest gain of 3.41% followed by Mutual Fund (+0.89%). Life Insurance experienced the highest loss of 2.30% followed by NBF1 (-1.57%), General Insurance (-0.06%).

· Non-financial (large-cap) sectors posted mixed performance this week. Telecommunication booked the highest gain of 1.39% followed by Food & Allied (+1.08%). Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 1.42% followed by Fuel & Power (-0.18%), and Engineering (-0.03%).

Macroeconomic Arena

EPL (Export Link) Accessories will invest USD 8 Mn in Bepza EZ. Businesses' 2025 wish list is long, but political stability tops all. TRADE | Container handling at Chattogram port records 7.42% growth. Airfares, cigarettes, hotel-restaurant costs likely to go up as NBR plans to slap more taxes. Bangladesh's FY24 GDP USD 300 Bn, not USD 459 Bn: City Bank Capital. FUEL & POWER | BD to rely heavily on LNG this yr. Strengthen export base with investment. BB to fix single exchange rate for USD soon. Challenges and priorities for 2025. Economy to see muted recovery in 2025. Revenue collection falls in Nov though business climate improves. After disgraceful 2024 'goat scandal' NBR steps up efforts to curb graft. BANK | 3 banks get BDT 125.00 Bn in emergency funds.

Remittances grow 22% to record nearly USD 27 Bn in 2024. Foreign fund flow, new pledges dwindle as debt servicing surges. Robust laws, interventions key to protect informal sector workers: Oxfam. Global commodity prices may drop in 2025. Can Bangladesh benefit from it?. PHARMACEUTICALS | Sergel nearing BDT 10 Bn annual sales. RMG | Can apparel industry weather any storm? 2024 offers clues. NBF1 | Financial services sector yet to reach full potential. TRADE | As old players disappear, small businesses step up to fill the commodity import gap. Bangladesh's GDP to outpace Swiss, Swedish by 2039, but with huge per capita gap. External sector recovers but investment stagnates post-revolution. Inflation outpaces wage growth for 34 months straight.

Stock Market Arena

DOERPLC | Doer Services QIO subscription begins Jan 19. ICB, BGIC | ICB to regain trusteeship of Bangladesh Fund from BGIC. HRTEX | HR Textile Mills revenue drops 54%. SALAMCRST | S Alam Cold Rolled assets face auction to recover BDT 20.03 Bn loans. SKTRIMS | SK Trims reports loss in Jul-Sep. GEMINISEA | BSEC approves 7.50% stock dividend for Gemini Sea Food. BEXIMCO, BXPHERMA, SPCERAMICS | BSEC appoints independent directors at three Beximco firms. MJLBD | Mobil Jamuna to expand with oil tanker, land purchase. ROBI | Robi gets acting CEO. EXCHANGE | Stock trading with mobile apps surge 26% in 2024. EXCHANGE | BDT 1.18 Tn wiped out of market as DSEX sheds 16.49% in 2024. SUMITPOWER | Summit Power gets time to submit financial statement. KPPL | Karnaphuli Paper Mill set for BDT 360 Bn revival plan. WMSHIPYARD | Western Marine plans to export eight ships by 2025. ISLAMIBANK | Economy can't go forward without Islami Bank: BB governor. AFTABAUTO | Aftab Automobiles records lifetime low in Hino bus sales.

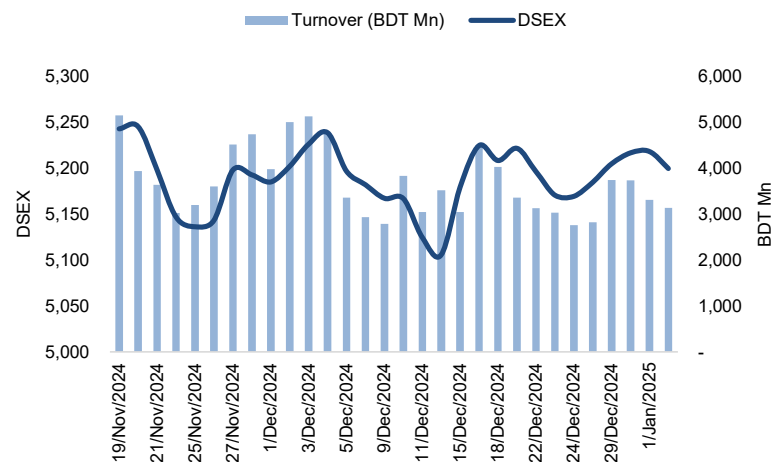
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,199.62	5,184.45	+15.17	5,216.44	0.29%	-0.32%
DS30	1,930.97	1,927.28	+3.69	1,939.73	0.19%	-0.45%
DSES	1,155.10	1,166.64	-11.54	1,168.90	-0.99%	-1.18%
CDSET	1,065.48	1,061.44	+4.04	1,066.09	0.38%	-0.06%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,629,514	6,601,610	0.42%
	Mn USD	54,340	54,112	
Turnover	Mn BDT	13,925	11,741	18.60%
	Mn USD	114	96	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	3,481	2,935	18.60%
	Mn USD	29	24	
Volume	Mn Shares	489	419	16.79%

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
WMSHIPYARD	9.2	6.4	+43.8%	2,164	17.8	NM	0.6x
KPPL	10.2	7.9	+29.1%	745	37.5	NM	NM
YPL	10.0	8.4	+19.0%	737	13.5	NM	1.9x
LEGACYFOOT	61.4	53.0	+15.8%	2,645	113.4	NM	5.5x
RUPALIBANK	24.4	21.3	+14.6%	11,906	42.9	17.9x	1.6x
MERCINS	25.5	22.5	+13.3%	1,099	0.7	31.9x	1.3x
HAMI	113.8	100.8	+12.9%	876	20.5	NM	12.5x
SHARPIND	24.8	22.1	+12.2%	7,526	29.4	68.9x	2.4x
SALAMCRST	10.8	9.7	+11.3%	1,062	6.2	67.5x	0.6x
ONEBANKPLC	9.2	8.3	+10.8%	9,806	115.4	4.0x	0.5x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
1STPRIMFMF	26.8	30.4	-11.8%	536	144.1	NM	2.5x
KBPPWBIL	130.1	144.2	-9.8%	12,760	236.6	NM	10.9x
ORIONINFU	387.2	424.8	-8.9%	7,883	829.9	NM	24.2x
JUTESPINN	242.9	266.2	-8.8%	413	0.7	NM	NM
BEACONPHAR	129.8	141.1	-8.0%	29,984	130.5	58.5x	4.6x
MITHUNKNIT	13.1	14.2	-7.7%	426	5.1	NM	4.1x
RUPALILIFE	101.6	108.9	-6.7%	3,049	268.5	NM	NM
DAFODILCOM	58.9	63.1	-6.7%	2,940	4.9	NM	4.4x
NORTHERN	110.9	118.3	-6.3%	238	1.1	NM	1.4x
DSSL	10.7	11.4	-6.1%	2,255	122.0	34.5x	0.6x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ORIONINFU	387.2	424.8	-8.9%	7,883	829.9	NM	24.2x
ROBI	29.0	28.0	+3.6%	151,900	427.3	27.6x	2.3x
BSC	91.8	94.5	-2.9%	14,003	411.6	4.8x	0.9x
CITYBANK	23.0	21.8	+5.5%	30,983	376.3	4.3x	0.8x
PUBALIBANK	29.9	29.2	+2.4%	34,589	356.8	3.6x	0.6x
FINEFOODS	237.4	216.7	+9.6%	3,317	314.0	NM	19.9x
BATBC	360.0	354.1	+1.7%	194,400	274.4	11.1x	3.2x
RUPALILIFE	101.6	108.9	-6.7%	3,049	268.5	NM	NM
LOVELLO	85.1	85.6	-0.6%	7,957	239.7	46.3x	6.6x
JAMUNABANK	19.8	19.5	+1.5%	17,464	236.9	5.3x	0.8x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
DUTCHBANGL	50.9	+6.3%	44,732	7.2x	0.9x
ISLAMIBANK	50.9	+5.2%	81,949	17.6x	1.1x
UCB	9.6	+4.3%	14,884	5.3x	0.3x
BRACBANK	50.5	+3.1%	89,370	8.1x	1.2x
CITYBANK	23.0	+2.7%	30,983	4.3x	0.8x
PRIMEBANK	24.0	+2.6%	27,175	4.3x	0.7x
ROBI	29.0	+2.5%	151,900	27.6x	2.3x
BANKASIA	17.4	+2.4%	20,287	NM	0.7x
ACI	142.7	+2.2%	12,506	NM	1.9x
TRUSTBANK	22.4	+1.8%	20,714	4.8x	0.8x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,469.8	1,421.3	1,429.64	+3.41%	+2.81%
NBFI	1,181.2	1,200.0	1,188.21	-1.57%	-0.59%
Mutual Fund	597.6	592.3	603.30	+0.89%	-0.95%
General Insurance	2,732.9	2,734.5	2,772.79	-0.06%	-1.44%
Life Insurance	1,785.5	1,827.5	1,827.34	-2.30%	-2.29%
Telecommunication	5,224.7	5,152.9	5,185.99	+1.39%	+0.75%
Pharmaceutical	2,930.2	2,972.5	2,959.70	-1.42%	-1.00%
Fuel & Power	1,099.2	1,101.2	1,108.63	-0.18%	-0.85%
Cement	1,927.4	1,947.3	1,957.26	-1.02%	-1.53%
Services & Real Estate	1,009.3	1,010.8	1,013.65	-0.15%	-0.43%
Engineering	2,497.0	2,497.7	2,496.75	-0.03%	+0.01%
Food & Allied	16,918.7	16,738.3	17,177.59	+1.08%	-1.51%
IT	1,954.0	1,987.4	1,994.92	-1.68%	-2.05%
Textile	1,088.7	1,089.8	1,093.38	-0.10%	-0.43%
Paper & Printing	3,963.3	3,983.1	3,998.20	-0.50%	-0.87%
Tannery	2,000.5	1,979.4	2,020.25	+1.07%	-0.98%
Jute	13,964.5	14,684.7	14,455.60	-4.90%	-3.40%
Ceramics	359.2	358.4	359.12	+0.22%	+0.03%
Miscellaneous	4,231.7	4,242.4	4,252.62	-0.25%	-0.49%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	613.4	292.0	+110.06%	+18.81%	9.0x	0.7x
NBFI	91.9	89.4	+2.86%	+2.82%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	103.8	81.5	+27.31%	+3.18%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	139.1	130.6	+6.48%	+4.26%	14.1x	1.2x
Life Insurance	142.7	122.4	+16.61%	+4.38%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	166.0	148.5	+11.78%	+5.09%	14.5x	4.3x
Pharmaceutical	542.4	514.0	+5.54%	+16.63%	14.1x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	166.9	137.4	+21.51%	+5.12%	14.2x	0.6x
Cement	26.1	26.4	-1.40%	+0.80%	15.4x	2.0x
Services & Real Estate	68.0	54.8	+24.03%	+2.08%	18.5x	0.4x
Engineering	259.1	283.8	-8.71%	+7.94%	12.3x	0.9x
Food & Allied	277.4	197.7	+40.33%	+8.51%	16.6x	4.4x
IT	86.4	76.1	+13.55%	+2.65%	19.0x	1.6x
Textile	260.7	279.9	-6.86%	+7.99%	NM	0.8x
Paper & Printing	35.7	29.2	+22.26%	+1.10%	NM	0.8x
Tannery	37.1	20.0	+85.29%	+1.14%	68.2x	1.5x
Jute	19.1	19.6	-2.16%	+0.59%	NM	NM
Ceramics	16.3	10.3	+57.27%	+0.50%	NM	1.0x
Miscellaneous	209.1	205.3	+1.86%	+6.41%	42.2x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BXPBARMA	78.2	-4.2%	34,886	5.8x	0.7x
LINDEBD	979.6	-3.9%	14,908	2.4x	4.4x
KPCL	12.6	-3.8%	5,007	NM	0.7x
POWERGRID	40.5	-3.1%	37,009	NM	0.2x
BSCPLC	122.8	-2.6%	22,968	16.7x	1.3x
GHAL	11.3	-2.6%	2,439	NM	0.9x
ACTIVEFINE	7.7	-2.5%	1,848	NM	0.3x
GPHISPAT	21.6	-2.3%	10,452	11.0x	0.4x
SHASHADNIM	18.2	-2.2%	2,567	9.6x	0.4x
BATBC	360.0	-2.1%	194,400	11.1x	3.2x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

EPL (Export Link) Accessories will invest USD 8 Mn in Bepza EZ

- Md Ashraful Kabir, member for investment promotion of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Kazi Monowar Hossain, managing director of EPL (Export Link) Accessories, signed a lease agreement in this regard at the Bepza Complex in the capital today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/epl-export-link-accessories-will-invest-8-million-bepza-ez-3789421>

Businesses' 2025 wish list is long, but political stability tops all

- Businesses hope for the year 2025 to bring about stability as normalcy has started to be restored in businesses following turbulent times both at home and abroad.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-2025-wish-list-long-political-stability-tops-all-3789856>

TRADE | Container handling at Chattogram port records 7.42% growth

- The container handling has increased by 7.42% compared to 2023, and cargo increased by 3.11%, Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman said during a briefing today (1 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/container-handling-chattogram-port-records-742-growth-1032026>

Airfares, cigarettes, hotel-restaurant costs likely to go up as NBR plans to slap more taxes

- Consumers may soon dig deeper in their pockets for air travel, cigarettes, LPG, clothing, restaurant meals, and hotel stays as the government plans to increase taxes on these goods and services at a time when the overall inflation is already high, over 11%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/airfares-cigarettes-hotel-restaurant-costs-likely-go-nbr-plans-slap-more-taxes-1032676>

Bangladesh's FY24 GDP USD 300 Bn, not USD 459 Bn: City Bank Capital

- The actual size of Bangladesh's GDP for the fiscal 2023-24 has been estimated at around USD 300 Bn by City Bank Capital Resources, significantly lower than the previous government's overstated figure of USD 459 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-fy24-gdp-300b-not-459b-city-bank-capital-1032751>

FUEL & POWER | BD to rely heavily on LNG this yr

- The country, for the first time, has planned to source a major portion of LNG from spot market compared to long-term LNG suppliers this year resulting in an increasing pressure on foreign currency reserves, they said, adding that the country's spot LNG imports are set to double this year compared to 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-to-rely-heavily-on-lng-this-yr-1735753901>

REAL ESTATE | Flat, commercial space sales drop 27% in 2024: Bproperty

- Sales of flats and commercial spaces in Dhaka experienced a significant year-on-year decline of 26.91% in 2024, according to Bproperty, the country's leading digital real estate marketplace.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/flat-commercial-space-sales-drop-27-2024-bproperty-1032641>

Strengthen export base with investment

- "We need to enhance our exports. I urge all businesspeople to come forward to invest more in the services sector in addition to products to boost our exports," he said while inaugurating the 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre at Purbachal, reports UNB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/strengthen-export-base-with-investment-1735753845>

BB to fix single exchange rate for USD soon

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) is set to introduce a single exchange rate for the USD, aiming to enhance transparency in dollar trading across banks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-to-fix-single-exchange-rate-for-us-dollar-soon>

Recovery on some fronts, but investment gaps, banking instability still key concerns

- Bangladesh's economy has shown signs of recovery in the final quarter of 2024, with notable improvements in key indicators such as card transactions, remittance inflows, exports, and the issuance of letters of credit (LCs) for imports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/recovery-some-fronts-investment-gaps-banking-instability-still-key-concerns-1031866>

Challenges and priorities for 2025

- Macroeconomic management will remain a formidable challenge for Bangladesh in the coming year. Containing inflation, bolstering foreign exchange reserves and dealing with overstretched banks will be critical priorities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/challenges-and-priorities-2025-3789051>

Economy to see muted recovery in 2025

- As political agendas now occupy a large chunk of reform efforts, economists believe the economic recovery in 2025 could be muted compared to what was expected after the political changeover in August 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economy-see-muted-recovery-2025-3789031>

Revenue collection falls in Nov though business climate improves

- Bangladesh's revenue collection fell in November this year even though the country saw improvement in its business climate that month thanks to the alleviation of political uncertainties stemming from the nationwide mass uprising in July-August.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/revenue-collection-falls-nov-though-business-climate-improves-3789071>

After disgraceful 2024 'goat scandal' NBR steps up efforts to curb graft

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) faced a chaotic time in 2024 after one of its senior members became embroiled in a high-profile scandal over the purchase of a sacrificial goat worth BDT 1.5 Mn, exposing vast amounts of his illegal wealth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/after-disgraceful-2024-goat-scandal-nbr-steps-up-efforts-to-curb-graft>

BANK | 3 banks get BDT 125.00 Bn in emergency funds

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has extended a total of BDT 125.00 Bn in emergency funds to three beleaguered banks to dress up their balance sheet ahead of the year's end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/3-banks-get-BDT-12500cr-emergency-funds-3789026>

BB plans to raise exchange rate amid forex volatility

- After seven months of implementing a crawling peg exchange rate system in spot purchases and sales of US dollars, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) is now considering increasing the mid-rate to BDT 119 from BDT 117 per greenback, according to central bank officials.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-plans-raise-exchange-rate-amid-forex-volatility-3788281>

Businesses foresee a better 2025 but wary of political uncertainty: EIB

- Bangladesh's business leaders are optimistic about earning growth in 2025 if inflation is controlled and banking reforms succeed, but they remain concerned about political stability and public order, finds a survey.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-foresee-better-2025-wary-political-uncertainty-eib-1030976>

Economic woes far from over

- The country saw a political changeover in early August following a mass uprising just seven months after the national election. Besides, the economic challenges that persisted in 2023 continued in the outgoing year, with the situation getting worse in many cases.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economic-woes-far-over-3788271>

TELECOM | BTRC approves terms for auditing Teletalk

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has finalised key steps for auditing Teletalk, including setting goals, outlining the scope and detailing tasks for the process.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-approves-terms-auditing-teletalk-3788261>

Forex reserves exceed USD 21 Bn: Cenbank

- The country's foreign exchange reserves have exceeded USD 21 Bn after receiving USD 1 Bn from several lending institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in the last one week.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/forex-reserves-exceed-21-billion-cenbank-1030001>

Remittances grow 22% to record nearly USD 27 Bn in 2024

- Bangladesh received nearly USD 27 Bn in remittances this year – reflecting a 22% year-on-year increase – bolstered by a 9% rise in the official dollar rate and a decline in money laundering during the final five months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittances-grow-22-record-nearly-27b-2024-1030081>

Foreign fund flow, new pledges dwindle as debt servicing surges

- Bangladesh's foreign debt servicing surged 28% year-on-year in the first five months of fiscal year 2024-25 owing to the country's expanded foreign loan portfolio and a rise in global interest rates.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-fund-flow-new-pledges-dwindle-debt-servicing-surges-3787436>

Robust laws, interventions key to protect informal sector workers: Oxfam

- Bangladesh's informal sector, which employs more than 85 %of the country's labour force, remains largely excluded from formal labour laws, leaving millions vulnerable to unsafe conditions, exploitation, and economic insecurity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/robust-laws-interventions-key-to-protect-informal-sector-workers-oxfam>

Global commodity prices may drop in 2025. Can Bangladesh benefit from it?

- Global commodity prices are projected to decrease in 2025, but Bangladesh may fail to reap the benefits if the depreciation of the local currency continues. Bangladesh relies heavily on imports of essential food items such as edible oils, lentils, onions, sugar, and spices, which saw a 5% year-on-year price increase in December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/global-commodity-prices-may-drop-2025-can-bangladesh-benefit-it-3787401>

PHARMACEUTICALS | Sergel nearing BDT 10 Bn annual sales

- Sergel is heading towards generating BDT 10 Bn in annual sales as over BDT 9 Bn worth of the gastrological medicine was sold in the first nine months of this year, according to information technology company IMS Health.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sergel-nearing-tk-1000cr-annual-sales-3787426>

RMG | Can apparel industry weather any storm? 2024 offers clues

- For the local apparel industry, 2024 was a year marked by challenges, recoveries and a renewed sense of hope as the global market began to brighten -- proving once again the resilience of Bangladesh's apparel might.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/can-apparel-industry-weather-any-storm-2024-offers-clues-3787416>

NBFI | Financial services sector yet to reach full potential

- The financial services sector of Bangladesh is yet to reach its full potential despite the significant advancements seen so far, according to Ahsan H Mansur, governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-services-sector-yet-reach-full-potential-3787406>

TRADE | As old players disappear, small businesses step up to fill the commodity import gap

- Small and medium-sized importers in Dhaka and Chattogram, who once struggled to open letters of credit (LCs) because of a market monopoly, have now stepped in to fill in the gap in the commodity supply chain since October, significantly increasing their imports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/old-players-disappear-small-businesses-step-fill-commodity-import-gap-1030071>

Interim govt strives to set precedent of responsibility for next govt: Salehuddin

- The interim government aspires to set a precedent by its activities to create a sense of responsibility and accountability for the country's next government, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/interim-govt-wants-set-footprint-next-govt-salehuddin-1028606>

Bangladesh's GDP to outpace Swiss, Swedish by 2039, but with huge per capita gap

- Bangladesh is set to become the world's 21st largest economy by 2039, thanks to its successful diversification beyond textiles into pharmaceuticals and electronics, supported by infrastructure investments and an expanding demographic dividend, says the London-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-gdp-outpace-swiss-swedish-2039-huge-capita-gap-1028086>

External sector recovers but investment stagnates post-revolution

- The country's external sector, which started to deteriorate two years ago amid faster erosion of foreign exchange reserves, has become stable after the July revolution riding on steady remittance and export earnings thanks to dollar rate adjustment in line with market demand.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/external-sector-recovers-investment-stagnates-post-revolution-1028646>

Inflation outpaces wage growth for 34 months straight

- Many low-income and unskilled workers in Bangladesh's agriculture, industrial and service sectors are being compelled to reduce consumption as rising inflation eroded their real incomes over the past three years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-outpaces-wage-growth-34-months-straight-3786671>

Labour market shrinking, unskilled migration increasing: RMMRU report

- The Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU) believes the labour market for Bangladeshi workers is shrinking, primarily due to fraudulent visa trading and the overspending of workers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/labour-market-shrinking-unskilled-migration-increasing-rmmru-report-1029341>

Transport workers' strike hits importers hard

- Importers have been incurring massive losses as nearly 1.5 Mn tonnes of goods from abroad have remained stuck at sea and river ports across the country for two days due to a water transport workers' strike that began at 12 am on Friday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/transport-workers-strike-hits-importers-hard-3786431>

BANK | A rush to heal exposed banking wounds

- At the heart of the turmoil were several Shariah-based banks heavily controlled by S Alam Group, a controversial business conglomerate whose governance failures and financial irregularities cast a shadow over the entire sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rush-heal-exposed-banking-wounds-3786686>

TELECOM | Dhaka's net deal with India: What's in it and why BTRC now seeks to trim import

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has taken a significant step to limit internet bandwidth imports from India, a move expected to promote local capacity utilisation and healthy competition.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/telecom/dhakas-net-deal-india-whats-it-and-why-btrc-now-seeks-trim-import-1029376>

RMG | Vietnam may surpass Bangladesh in garment export: report

- Vietnam is set to generate USD 44 Bn this year through garment exports, surpassing Bangladesh, which is currently the world's second-largest garment exporter, according to a Vietnamese media report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/vietnam-may-surpass-bangladesh-garment-export-report-3785366>

TELECOM | Bangladesh's ICT sector suffered BDT 20 Bn losses for prolonged internet shutdown in 2024

- With 2024 nearing its end, one of the year's most disturbing events remains the prolonged internet shutdown during the July mass uprising in Bangladesh. It disrupted communication and caused an estimated loss of BDT 20 Bn to the nation's ICT and e-commerce sectors.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/ict-sector-suffered-tk-20b-losses-for-prolonged-internet-shutdown-in-2024>

Important News: Stocks

DOERPLC | Doer Services QIO subscription begins Jan 19

- Share subscription of the company will begin on January 19 and continue until January 23 under the fixed price method through the electronic subscription system of the stock exchanges, according to a stock exchange filing on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/doer-services-qio-subscription-begins-jan-19-1735749355>

ICB, BGIC | ICB to regain trusteeship of Bangladesh Fund from BGIC

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to transfer the trusteeship of the "Bangladesh Fund" from Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) back to the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) under ICB Asset Management Company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-regain-trusteeship-bangladesh-fund-bgic-1032631>

HRTEX | HR Textile Mills revenue drops 54%

- HR Textile Mills—a concern of Pride Group—reported that its revenue dropped 54% and incurred a loss in the July-September quarter of this fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hr-textile-mills-revenue-drops-54-1032661>

SALAMCRST | S Alam Cold Rolled assets face auction to recover BDT 20.03

Bn loans

- Janata Bank is set to auction the mortgaged assets of S Alam Cold Rolled Steels – the lone capital market-listed company owned by the S Alam Group.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-cold-rolled-assets-face-auction-recover-tk2003cr-loans-1032626>

SKTRIMS | SK Trims reports loss in Jul-Sep

- SK Trims and Industries, a publicly traded company, reported losses in the July-September quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25 due to a temporary suspension of operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sk-trims-reports-loss-jul-sep-1032616>

GEMINISEA | BSEC approves 7.50% stock dividend for Gemini Sea Food

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved Gemini Sea Food, a leading frozen shrimp and fish exporter, to distribute stock dividends to its shareholders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-approves-750-stock-dividend-gemini-sea-food-1031781>

BEXIMCO, BXPHERMA, SPCERAMICS | BSEC appoints independent directors at three Beximco firms

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has appointed independent directors to three listed companies owned by the Beximco Group, as per instructions of the Financial Institutions Division under the finance ministry.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-appoints-independent-directors-three-beximco-firms-1031516>

MJLBD | Mobil Jamuna to expand with oil tanker, land purchase

- Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Bangladesh PLC is planning to buy an oil tanker and acquire land to expand its operations. The company's board of directors has approved the purchase of a second-hand Aframax oil tanker, MT Nissos Delos, for USD 45.3 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mobil-jamuna-expand-oil-tanker-land-purchase-3788236>

ROBI | Robi gets acting CEO

- Robi Axiata has appointed an acting CEO as Rajeev Sethi was assigned to a new role within Axiata Group, according to a letter sent to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/robi-gets-acting-ceo-3788266>

EXCHANGE | Stock trading with mobile apps surge 26% in 2024

- DSE data showed shares traded via mobile apps amounted to BDT 212.99 Bn, accounting for 14.33% of the total turnover. In 2023, shares traded through mobile apps totalled BDT 168.48 Bn, representing 11.94% of the total turnover.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stock-trading-mobile-apps-surge-26-2024-1030871>

EXCHANGE | BDT 1.18 Tn wiped out of market as DSEX sheds 16.49% in 2024

- DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), registered a substantial decline of 16.49% or 1,030 points in 2024, reflecting persistent market volatility and economic challenges that eroded investor confidence.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/tk118-lakh-crore-wiped-out-market-dsex-sheds-1649-2024-1030881>

SUMITPOWER | Summit Power gets time to submit financial statement

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has granted Summit Power time to submit its financial statement, according to a disclosure published on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-power-gets-time-submit-financial-statement-3787376>

KPPL | Karnaphuli Paper Mill set for BDT 360 Bn revival plan

- Over the past decade and a half, outdated machinery, a lack of skilled manpower, mismanagement, and internal issues – such as a corrupt syndicate of officials – have led to a significant decline in production capacity and massive financial losses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/karnaphuli-paper-mill-set-tk36000cr-revival-plan-1029396>

EXCHANGE | Brokers get four months to migrate to uneditable back-office software

- Upon approval from the securities regulator, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has allowed its brokerage firms four extended months to migrate to uneditable back-office software.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-get-four-months-migrate-uneditable-back-office-software-1029986>

WMSHIPYARD | Western Marine plans to export eight ships by 2025

- After a pause of five years, shipbuilder Western Marine Shipyard Ltd is planning to export eight ships to a buyer of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by next year. It was in January 2020 that the shipbuilder last exported two large bulk carriers to Indian Jindal Steel Works.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/western-marine-plans-export-eight-ships-2025-3786691>

ISLAMIBANK | Economy can't go forward without Islami Bank: BB governor

- Bangladesh economy cannot go forward without Islami Bank and people of the country have confidence on the financial institution, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-cant-go-forward-without-islami-bank-bb-governor-3786491>

AFTABAUTO | Aftab Automobiles records lifetime low in Hino bus sales

- Aftab Automobiles Limited – the exclusive distributor of Hino buses in Bangladesh – appears to have lost its prominence in the commercial vehicle industry as the Japanese brand struggles to maintain momentum against increasing competition, primarily from Ashok Leyland and Tata.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aftab-automobiles-records-lifetime-low-hino-bus-sales-1029326>

EXCHANGE | 4 RACE managed funds face special audit for trustee change

- Four mutual funds under RACE Asset Management will undergo a special audit as part of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's (BSEC) plan to change their trustee.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/4-race-managed-funds-face-special-audit-trustee-change-1028021>

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