

Weekly Market Update

DSEX ended in Green (0.08%) in the week

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.08%) gained 4.23 points and closed the week at 5,196.82 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.23%) lost -4.31 points and stood at 1,911.92 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.25%) lost -2.92 points and stood at 1,163.97 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.29%) gained 3.10 points and closed at 1,057.69 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -16.80%, -8.69%, -14.67%, -12.07%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 22.2 billion (USD 185 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 4.4 billion (Δ% Week: +16.5%)
Market P/E: 14.7x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started off as negative on Sunday (-0.1%), but turned positive on Monday (+0.3%) and remained positive on Tuesday (+0.5%), and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.2%) but again closed negative on Thursday (-0.8%).

Sectoral Performance

Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Mutual Fund booked the highest gain of 2.90% followed by NBF (1.01%). Life Insurance experienced the highest loss of 2.08% followed by General Insurance (-1.97%), Bank (-0.42%).

Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Fuel & Power experienced the highest loss of 1.62% followed by Engineering (-0.47%), Telecommunication (-0.33%), Food & Allied (-0.13%), and Pharmaceutical (+0.65%).

Macroeconomic Arena

Bangladesh's exports rise in November, imports decline. Govt aims to bring down inflation to 4-5%. IMF raises Bangladesh's revenue growth target. BANK | Cenbank relaxes loan classification, provisioning rules for CMSMEs. BANK | Russia to get Rooppur loan payments via Sonali Bank account. FUEL & POWER | Bangladesh's new LNG purchase policy draws Shell, BP, Glencore and Aramco. FUEL & POWER | Diesel supply disrupted in eight northern districts. Financial account surplus exceeds USD 1 Bn in Jul-Oct. FDI data overstated by USD 5.7 Bn in four years. ENERGY | Chevron to invest in new gas exploration in Bangladesh. BANK | Banking sector decline linked to 2010 single-digit lending rate policy: White Paper.

Remittance rises 14% in November. GDP growth overstated since 1995. White Paper recommends establishing inland container depots in economic zones. Businesses will now get up to three years for payment: BB. Investment promotion agencies have become dysfunctional: White Paper. BANK | Janata Bank files BDT 19.64 Bn default loan case against S Alam Group. BANK | Banking sector most 'ravaged' by corruption: White Paper. ENERGY | Excess capacity payment to power plants not less than BDT 360 Bn in 15 years: White Paper. ENERGY | Renewable power plants get 15-yr tax exemption. BANK | BB raises credit card interest rate to 25%. IT | ICT among most corruption-affected sectors: White Paper. Bangladesh on track for next IMF loans.

Stock Market Arena

SQRPHARMA | Square Pharma's export up 22% in FY24, as it diversifies markets, products. BANGAS | Bangas sees Q1 profit surge by 16%. SICL | Sikder Insurance proposes to invest BDT 60.8 Mn in govt treasury bonds. DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank's services to remain suspended temporarily. KAY&QUE | How merger brings blessing for Kay & Que's business. NTC | Govt orders NTC to sell 2.2 Mn kg of tea to settle workers' wages. DAFODILCOM | Daffodil Computers to issue shares at BDT 10, far below market price. ACMELAB | ACME Lab sponsor to sell shares to ease Sinha Securities deficit. SUMITPOWER | Summit, Petrobangla disputing USD 22 Mn bill. EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil relegated to junk status. JAMUNAOIL | Jamuna Oil's profit soars record 29% on higher interest income. KTL | Kattali Textile to face the music for money laundering. SSSTEEL | SS Steel's Q1 profit surges 50%. NBL | National Bank recovers BDT 9 Bn bad loans till Oct.

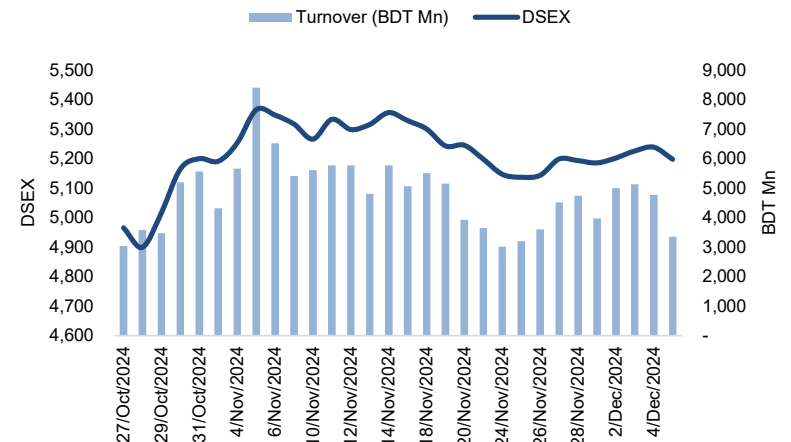
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	28-Dec-2023	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,196.82	5,192.59	+4.23	6,246.50	0.08%	-16.80%
DS30	1,911.92	1,916.23	-4.31	2,093.83	-0.23%	-8.69%
DSES	1,163.97	1,166.89	-2.92	1,364.13	-0.25%	-14.67%
CDSET	1,057.69	1,054.59	+3.10	1,202.82	0.29%	-12.07%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,637,050	6,643,564	
	Mn USD	55,309	55,363	-0.10%
Turnover	Mn BDT	22,217	19,066	16.53%
	Mn USD	185	159	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	4,443	3,813	16.53%
	Mn USD	37	32	
Volume	Mn Shares	960	690	39.07%

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
DSSL	11.5	8.3	+38.6%	2,424	313.3	37.1x	0.6x
MIRACLEIND	22.6	17.6	+28.4%	796	48.4	NM	1.8x
DACCADYE	13.1	11.2	+17.0%	1,142	21.7	NM	0.4x
DSHGARME	80.3	69.0	+16.4%	666	14.3	NM	4.3x
MLDYEING	9.2	8.1	+13.6%	2,138	40.3	48.4x	0.7x
DULAMIACOT	83.8	73.8	+13.6%	633	21.1	NM	NM
1STPRIMFMF	44.5	39.3	+13.2%	890	233.6	NM	4.2x
GLDNJMF	9.4	8.4	+11.9%	940	110.4	NM	0.9x
NBL	5.8	5.2	+11.5%	18,674	30.8	NM	3.1x
EBL1STMF	4.0	3.6	+11.1%	579	3.3	NM	0.4x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
EMERALDOIL	25.8	31.4	-17.8%	2,355	295.4	19.9x	NM
NEWLINE	8.2	9.7	-15.5%	644	103.5	15.8x	0.3x
BIFC	9.0	10.5	-14.3%	906	2.2	NM	NM
NRBBANK	13.1	14.3	-8.4%	9,047	874.3	21.6x	1.0x
PADMAOIL	195.0	212.0	-8.0%	19,155	47.2	4.3x	0.8x
HAMI	75.9	81.8	-7.2%	584	4.4	NM	8.3x
ESQUIRENIT	19.9	21.3	-6.6%	2,684	15.8	24.0x	0.3x
SICL	21.8	23.6	-6.0%	872	17.3	17.9x	1.2x
BSC	88.3	93.8	-5.9%	13,469	364.2	4.6x	0.8x
PADMALIFE	17.8	18.9	-5.8%	692	2.2	NM	NM

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
NRBBANK	13.1	14.3	-8.4%	9,047	874.3	21.6x	1.0x
GENEXIL	31.7	31.6	+0.3%	3,818	473.4	12.7x	1.5x
ASIATICLAB	33.6	31.1	+8.0%	4,112	451.2	14.3x	0.6x
AGNISYSL	26.0	26.7	-2.6%	1,886	393.0	21.8x	1.5x
BSC	88.3	93.8	-5.9%	13,469	364.2	4.6x	0.8x
ICB	71.5	69.8	+2.4%	62,009	336.9	31.9x	1.4x
INTRACO	20.5	20.0	+2.5%	2,014	324.4	24.7x	1.6x
GP	317.6	319.7	-0.7%	428,855	315.1	12.1x	7.4x
DSSL	11.5	8.3	+38.6%	2,424	313.3	37.1x	0.6x
TECHNODRUG	37.1	37.1	-	4,897	296.7	0.0x	1.2x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ISLAMIBANK	51.5	+58.0%	82,915	17.8x	1.1x
BRACBANK	47.9	+47.2%	84,769	7.7x	1.1x
UNILEVERCL	2,604.8	+29.0%	50,206	68.3x	21.4x
CITYBANK	21.9	+12.6%	29,501	4.1x	0.7x
JAMUNAOIL	188.6	+11.9%	20,826	4.3x	0.8x
MJLBD	96.3	+11.1%	30,503	10.2x	1.9x
PRIMEBANK	23.3	+11.0%	26,382	4.2x	0.7x
GP	317.6	+10.8%	428,855	12.1x	7.4x
MPETROLEUM	215.4	+8.5%	23,310	4.0x	0.9x
OLYMPIC	159.1	+4.7%	31,810	17.3x	2.8x

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

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,445.3	1,451.4	1,455.32	-0.42%	-0.69%
NBFI	1,314.9	1,301.8	1,902.52	+1.01%	-30.89%
Mutual Fund	624.4	606.9	876.90	+2.90%	-28.79%
General Insurance	2,784.2	2,840.1	3,489.09	-1.97%	-20.20%
Life Insurance	1,906.0	1,946.5	2,637.78	-2.08%	-27.74%
Telecommunication	5,022.3	5,038.8	4,945.60	-0.33%	+1.55%
Pharmaceutical	2,928.8	2,909.9	3,732.58	+0.65%	-21.53%
Fuel & Power	1,135.3	1,154.0	1,691.80	-1.62%	-32.89%
Cement	2,002.3	1,996.3	2,523.22	+0.30%	-20.65%
Services & Real Estate	1,052.8	1,064.0	1,518.57	-1.06%	-30.67%
Engineering	2,505.9	2,517.6	4,520.40	-0.47%	-44.57%
Food & Allied	16,827.9	16,849.0	21,180.76	-0.13%	-20.55%
IT	2,049.5	2,078.4	2,894.80	-1.39%	-29.20%
Textile	1,093.2	1,079.4	1,658.23	+1.27%	-34.08%
Paper & Printing	4,311.5	4,128.4	10,093.63	+4.44%	-57.28%
Tannery	1,979.6	1,970.8	3,103.94	+0.45%	-36.22%
Jute	15,162.5	15,584.0	17,683.51	-2.70%	-14.26%
Ceramics	376.9	364.3	694.56	+3.45%	-45.73%
Miscellaneous	4,196.8	4,197.4	4,265.32	-0.01%	-1.61%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	594.7	655.3	-9.24%	+14.01%	8.8x	0.7x
NBFI	200.3	162.3	+23.40%	+4.72%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	180.3	73.3	+146.16%	+4.25%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	150.9	168.3	-10.37%	+3.55%	14.4x	1.2x
Life Insurance	91.1	99.2	-8.21%	+2.15%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	116.7	90.5	+28.97%	+2.75%	13.9x	4.2x
Pharmaceutical	592.0	457.8	+29.32%	+13.95%	14.1x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	249.8	193.1	+29.38%	+5.89%	14.3x	0.6x
Cement	40.1	54.4	-26.39%	+0.94%	16.0x	2.0x
Services & Real Estate	184.6	115.4	+60.03%	+4.35%	19.3x	0.4x
Engineering	400.5	257.7	+55.40%	+9.44%	12.4x	0.9x
Food & Allied	313.3	393.4	-20.38%	+7.38%	16.5x	4.3x
IT	289.4	269.9	+7.21%	+6.82%	19.9x	1.7x
Textile	493.4	315.6	+56.31%	+11.62%	71.6x	0.7x
Paper & Printing	61.1	29.4	+108.00%	+1.44%	NM	0.9x
Tannery	25.3	16.1	+57.32%	+0.60%	67.5x	1.5x
Jute	44.2	76.5	-42.21%	+1.04%	NM	NM
Ceramics	54.2	23.9	+126.94%	+1.28%	NM	1.0x
Miscellaneous	162.5	183.9	-11.61%	+3.83%	41.2x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BBSCABLES	17.9	-64.1%	3,790	NM	0.6x
IPDC	20.3	-63.0%	7,910	25.2x	1.2x
ACTIVEFINE	8.2	-57.5%	1,967	NM	0.4x
DOREENPWR	27.0	-55.7%	4,890	18.1x	0.5x
WALTONHIL	483.9	-53.8%	146,587	11.2x	1.3x
SUMITPOWER	16.0	-52.9%	17,086	22.5x	0.4x
KPCL	13.1	-50.8%	5,206	NM	0.7x
IFADAUTOS	21.9	-50.3%	5,817	NM	0.6x
BARKAPOWER	10.7	-49.8%	2,519	10.5x	0.5x
TITASGAS	21.0	-48.7%	20,774	NM	0.2x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Bangladesh's exports rise in November, imports decline

- Bangladesh's merchandise exports grew 15.63% year-on-year in November, primarily driven by an increase in shipments of ready-made garments, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-earnings-grow-15-november-1009926>

Govt aims to bring down inflation to 4-5%

- The government plans to reduce inflation to 4-5%, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur said yesterday. He said that the interim government aims to bring inflation down to 7% by next June. We will reduce it to 5% by the next fiscal year 2025-26. The main goal is to bring inflation down to 4-5%. I hope it is possible," he said

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-aims-bring-down-inflation-4-5-3768431>

IMF raises Bangladesh's revenue growth target

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set Bangladesh's revenue growth target for the current fiscal to an amount that is 27% higher than what was collected last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-raises-bangladeshs-revenue-growth-target-27-1010441>

BANK | Cenbank relaxes loan classification, provisioning rules for CMSMEs

- The Bangladesh Bank has relaxed the rules of loan classification and provisioning for the Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSME) sector to create more employment opportunities through increasing investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-relaxes-loan-classification-provisioning-rules-cmsmes-1010286>

BANK | Russia to get Rooppur loan payments via Sonali Bank account

- Under the agreement, a foreign currency account will be opened in the name of the Russian government at Bangladesh's state-owned Sonali Bank's Local Branch in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/russia-get-rooppur-loan-payments-sonali-bank-account-1010526>

FUEL & POWER | Bangladesh's new LNG purchase policy draws Shell, BP, Glencore and Aramco

- Shell, BP, Aramco and Glencore are among nearly two dozen firms Bangladesh has approved as suppliers of spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) as it seeks to boost competition and cut costs, the country's top energy official told Reuters.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-new-lng-purchase-policy-draws-shell-bp-glencore-and-aramco-3768226>

BANK | Banks asked to provide loan info of Thermax Group

- The Bangladesh Bank has asked lenders in the country to provide detailed information on all the loans and liabilities of companies operated by Thermax Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-asked-provide-loan-info-thermax-group-3768426>

ENGINEERING | No respite for steelmakers as sales depressed since July

- The price of mild steel (MS) rods has continued to fall due to low demand for construction materials, especially as public consumption has declined to virtually zero since the political changeover on August 5.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-respite-steelmakers-sales-depressed-july-3768681>

FUEL & POWER | Diesel supply disrupted in eight northern districts

- Diesel supply in eight districts of Rangpur has been hampered due to the refusal of loco masters to work overtime and non-arrival of a scheduled consignment through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from across the border.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/diesel-supply-disrupted-eight-northern-districts-3768641>

IMF to release USD 1.1 Bn as fourth tranche by March: Finance adviser

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has greenlighted the release of USD 1.1 Bn as the fourth tranche – nearly double the amount initially set – of its USD 4.7 Bn loan programme to help Bangladesh avoid its financial challenges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/finance-adviser-confirms-11b-imf-loan-release-march-1009136>

IMF suggests upward policy rate in 2025 to restrain inflation: BB

- With Bangladesh facing higher inflation for a long time, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised keeping the policy interest rate rising until inflation decreases.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-suggests-upward-policy-rate-2025-restrain-inflation-bb-1009216>

Financial account surplus exceeds USD 1 Bn in Jul-Oct

- The country's financial account surplus exceeded the USD 1 Bn mark in the first four months of the current fiscal year (FY25), driven by the inflow of overdue export proceeds and a reduction in short-term loan repayments. According to a central bank report, the account had recorded a USD 873 Mn deficit during the same period of the previous fiscal year (FY24)

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-account-surplus-exceeds-1b-jul-oct-1009551>

Need to enhance human resources capacity for LDC graduation: Commerce Adviser

- Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashiruddin has stressed the need to enhance the human resources capacity for Bangladesh's graduation to a developing economy. "Bangladesh is committed to ensuring dispute resolution in the framework of security and predictability in the multilateral trading system. We need to increase the capacity of our business organizations and human resources for the LDC transition," he said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/need-to-enhance-human-resources-capacity-for-ldc-graduation-commerce-adviser>

USD 6 Bn foreign loan commitments may come by June: finance adviser

- The government expects to get new loan commitments worth USD 6 Bn for reform activities from the development partners within next June, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said today. They will come from multiple development partners, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/6-billion-foreign-loan-commitments-may-come-june-finance-adviser-3767611>

Unified centrally monitored FDI strategy stressed at AmCham roundtable

- US businesses, along with several local entrepreneurs and executives, have called for a unified and centrally monitored foreign direct investment (FDI) strategy to create an effective FDI ecosystem and boost sustainable economic growth in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/unified-centrally-monitored-fdi-strategy-stressed-amcham-roundtable-1009531>

FDI data overstated by USD 5.7 Bn in four years

- The Bangladesh Bank overstated the net foreign direct investment data by USD 5.7 Bn between fiscal 2019-20 and 2022-23, said BB spokeswoman Husne Ara Shikha. The data anomaly came to the fore after the BB revised the data from fiscal 2019-20 as per the BPM6 guideline of the International Monetary Fund.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/fdi-data-overstated-57b-four-years-3767831>

ENERGY | Chevron to invest in new gas exploration in Bangladesh

- Energy giant Chevron has shown interest in investing in new gas exploration activities in Bangladesh to boost the country's energy security, senior officials of the US-based company said today. Chevron officials expressed satisfaction that the interim government had begun clearing hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears, which the previous Hasina administration had not paid over the past two years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chevron-invest-new-gas-exploration-bangladesh-3767506>

BANK | Banking sector decline linked to 2010 single-digit lending rate policy: White Paper

- Bangladesh's banking sector began to deteriorate in 2010 when the government introduced a single-digit 9% interest rate for lending, according to a White Paper.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banking-sector-decline-linked-to-2010-single-digit-lending-rate-policy-white-paper>

ENERGY | Energy companies forewarn gas cutoff for liquidity crunch

- State-owned energy companies forewarn gas cutoff following impending acute liquidity crisis attributable to nearly BDT 27 Bn overdue refunds of excess taxes charged by taxmen.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/energy-companies-forewarn-gas-cutoff-for-liquidity-crunch>

IMF review mission due in Dhaka today

- The third review mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today (3 December) to assess the progress in meeting the conditions for releasing the fourth tranche of the USD 4.7 Bn loan agreement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-review-mission-due-dhaka-tomorrow-1008351>

Moody's Ratings telling an outdated story of Bangladesh: BB governor

- Moody's Ratings is telling an outdated story of Bangladesh; it's not updated," he remarked in response to a question at a webinar yesterday titled "The State of Investment Climate in Bangladesh" organized by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida). He was the guest of honor.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/moodys-ratings-telling-outdated-story-bangladesh-bb-governor-1008361>

Govt may cut GDP growth projection to 5.25% this fiscal year

- The interim government of Bangladesh will likely revise the country's projection of gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 5.25% from 6.75% for the current fiscal year of 2024-25.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-may-cut-gdp-growth-projection-525-fiscal-year-3766906>

Govt must come up with two-year economic plan

- The interim government must devise a two-year mid-term plan on how to steer the economy in addition to an assessment of the past months and a short-term plan for the upcoming six months, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, the chair of the white paper committee.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-must-come-two-year-economic-plan-3766591>

Revenue falls BDT 310 Bn short of target in Jul-Oct

- According to data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the collection stood at BDT 1012.82 Bn against the target of BDT 1321.14 Bn for July-October. The collection was BDT 10.55 Bn, or 1%, lower than the same period in the last fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/revenue-falls-tk31000cr-short-target-jul-oct-1008491>

Wealth inequality way worse than income disparity

- Bangladesh ranks among the countries with the highest income disparities globally, but there is another problem way worse than that: wealth inequality, which means a minuscule portion of the population owns a disproportionate amount of wealth compared to the majority.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wealth-inequality-way-worse-income-disparity-3767061>

Development narrative perhaps ended up as 'delusion'

- The narrative of economic development that the ousted Awami League (AL) government tried to establish perhaps ended up being a delusion even to the wirepullers, according to the white paper on the state of the economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/development-narrative-perhaps-ended-delusion-3767051>

Labour market: A ticking time bomb

- Bangladesh has an oversupply of tertiary graduates and the unemployment rate among the educated youth has grown 2.5 times since 2010 as they are 'incompatible' with the structure of the industries and the economy, according to the white paper on the state of the economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/labour-market-ticking-time-bomb-3767056>

RMG | Chinese firm Bangladesh BaoRui Textile to invest USD 19.53 Mn in Mongla EPZ

- Chinese company Bangladesh BaoRui Textile Co Ltd will invest USD 19.53 Mn in the Mongla Export Processing Zone (EPZ) to establish a composite textile manufacturing facility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chinese-firm-bangladesh-baorui-textile-invest-1953-million-mongla-epz-3766706>

TELECOM | BTRC lifts bar on local cache for faster internet

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday repealed a directive it had passed in 2021 restricting small and medium-sized internet service providers (ISPs) from installing cache servers for their network.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btrc-lifts-bar-local-cache-faster-internet-3766901>

Remittance rises 14% in November

- Remittances sent home by Bangladeshis living abroad rose 14% year-on-year to USD 2.2 Bn in November, according to Bangladesh Bank's latest data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-rises-14-november-3765951>

A possible game-changer for BD's sustainable growth

- Amid the ongoing foreign exchange volatility, local businesses could attract substantial capital through "foreign private equity funds", offering a lifeline to the crisis while fostering sustainable growth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/a-possible-game-changer-for-bds-sustainable-growth>

White Paper reveals how 15 years of corruption bled the economy

- Between 2009 and 2023, illicit financial outflows averaged USD 16 Bn annually – more than double the combined value of net foreign aid and FDI inflows, while politically influenced lending practices have left the banking sector with distressed assets equivalent to the cost of constructing 13.5 Dhaka Metro systems or 22.5 Padma Bridges as of June 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/white-paper-reveals-how-15-years-corruption-bled-economy-1007546>

GDP growth overstated since 1995

- Bangladesh's economic growth has been overstated since 1995 and the practice of making inflated estimates rose after the fiscal year 2012-13, according to the findings of the white paper panel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gdp-growth-overstated-1995-3766131>

Cost of seven mega projects jumped 70% from initial estimate

- The projects are the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project, Multi-Lane Road Tunnel under the Karnaphuli River, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, Dohazari to Cox's Bazar Railway Track, Payra Deep Sea Port and Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Project.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cost-seven-mega-projects-jumped-70-initial-estimate-3766341>

Conglomerates had tax exemptions on political considerations: White Paper

- Many business groups in the country enjoyed tax exemptions through statutory regulatory orders (SROs) from the NBR with the use of political connections during the Awami League regime, according to the findings of the White Paper preparation committee.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/conglomerates-had-tax-exemptions-political-considerations-white-paper-1007526>

White Paper recommends establishing inland container depots in economic zones

- The final draft of the document, which was submitted to the chief adviser (CA) of the interim government today (1 December), stated that customs procedures add more complexity to the process and frequent mismatches in HS code in the Import General Manifest (IGM) lead to a delay in the process.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/white-paper-recommends-establishing-inland-container-depots-economic-zones-1007441>

Big loans may become bigger problems for Bangladesh: White Paper

- Bangladesh's external debt repayments are expected to rise sharply in the coming years, exerting pressure on the country's economy, according to the final draft of the White Paper on the State of Bangladesh Economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/big-loans-may-become-bigger-problems-bangladesh-white-paper-1007426>

Businesses will now get up to three years for payment: BB

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed rules on import of capital machinery by industries under buyer's credit in order to facilitate long-term investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-will-now-get-three-years-payment-bb-3765881>

Investment promotion agencies have become dysfunctional: White Paper

- The investment promotion ecosystem in Bangladesh is fragmented, with investment promotion agencies (IPAs) operating in isolation rather than as a cohesive unit, according to the final draft of the White Paper on the State of Bangladesh's Economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investment-promotion-agencies-have-become-dysfunctional-white-paper-1007336>

BANK | Janata Bank files BDT 19.64 Bn default loan case against S Alam Group

- Janata Bank filed a case against the industrial conglomerate S Alam Group with the Chattogram Money Loan Court on Sunday over defaulted loans amounting to BDT 19.64 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/janata-bank-files-tk-1964cr-default-loan-case-against-s-alam-group-3766141>

BANK | Banking sector most 'ravaged' by corruption: White Paper

- The White Paper on the state of Bangladesh's economy has ranked the banking sector as the most "corruption-ravaged" sector, identifying the culprits within the system as "heavyweights." This has led to distressed assets of BDT 6.75 Tn, which constitutes 31.7% of total loans in the banking industry by the end of June 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banking-sector-most-ravaged-corruption-white-paper-1007496>

ENERGY | Excess capacity payment to power plants not less than BDT 360 Bn in 15 years: White Paper

- Assuming the underutilisation of other power plants (gas, coal), the total excess capacity payment would not be less than BDT 360 Bn in the last 15 years, the White Paper on the State of Bangladesh Economy has said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/excess-capacity-payment-power-plants-not-less-tk3600cr-15-years-white-paper-1007171>

ENERGY | Renewable power plants get 15-yr tax exemption

- The tax exemption for renewable energy-based power plants has been extended to 15 years. The investors will be entitled to a full tax exemption for the first 10 years of operations, according to a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) issued by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on November 27.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/renewable-power-plants-get-15-yr-tax-exemption-1733077562>

BANK | BB raises credit card interest rate to 25%

- The Bangladesh Bank has raised the interest rate on credit card loans to 25% to ensure effective loan risk management as well as align with the policy rate and banks' rising funding costs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-raises-credit-card-interest-rate-to-25pc>

RMG | Diversifying exports: Non-RMG sectors face 11 challenges

- Entrepreneurs seeking to diversify their export basket face 11 key challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure, high logistics costs, a shortage of skilled labour, and slow technology adoption, according to the draft of the White Paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/diversifying-exports-non-rmg-sectors-face-11-challenges-1007511>

IT | ICT among most corruption-affected sectors: White Paper

- The White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh Economy, submitted to the Chief Adviser today (1 December), identified the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector as one of the most affected by corruption.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/ict/ict-among-most-corruption-affected-sectors-white-paper-1007471>

Bangladesh on track for next IMF loans

- Bangladesh is on track to meet all 12 conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to qualify for the fourth tranche of a USD 4.7 Bn loan programme, only missing the revenue collection target.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-track-next-imf-loans-3765416>

Deal signed for EUR 181 Mn German financial, technical cooperation support

- Germany is all set to extend EUR 181 Mn or around BDT 22.65 Bn in financial and technical cooperation support to Bangladesh. Of the amount, EUR 45.8 Mn will come as technical cooperation and the rest EUR 135 Mn as financial cooperation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/deal-signed-181-million-euro-german-financial-technical-cooperation-support-3763821>

Govt to focus on inflation control, financial stability in FY26 budget

- With inflation control and financial discipline in focus, the interim government is planning an austerity budget for the next fiscal year with cuts in both development and revenue spending, while seeking to spur investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-focus-inflation-control-financial-stability-fy26-budget-1005851>

External debt servicing hits record USD 1.44 Bn in Q1

- Bangladesh's debt servicing for external loans has hit a record high of USD 1.44 Bn in the first four months, nearly 5.5 times higher than the foreign aid commitment by development partners, official data showed on Thursday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/external-debt-servicing-hits-record-144b-in-q1-1732817437>

Businesses voice concern over state of law and order

- Businesses have voiced concerns about the state of law and order in industrial areas, which has not improved to the level they had anticipated, even though the interim government has been in office for three and a half months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-voice-concern-over-state-law-and-order-3765226>

Up to 40% of ADP funds embezzled in 15 yrs

- Around 23.33% to 40% of government money allocated under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the last 15 years has been embezzled through various forms of corruption, according to a draft report of the White Paper committee on the state of Bangladesh's economy.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/up-to-40pc-of-adp-funds-embezzled-in-15-yrs>

RMG | FY25 Q1 RMG exports down 2.8%

- Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports totalled USD 9.51 Bn in the first quarter of FY25, reflecting a 2.8% year-on-year decline despite a 7.64% rise from the previous quarter.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/fy25-q1-rmg-exports-down-28pc-29>

BANK | 6 banks incur BDT 3.32 Bn quarterly loss as S Alam-era weakness exposed

- Six banks have incurred a combined loss of BDT 3.32 Bn in the July-September quarter, exposing their poor financial health after being freed from the control of the controversial S Alam Group.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/6-banks-incur-tk332cr-quarterly-loss-s-alam-era-weakness-exposed-1005261>

BANK | BB's chummy rules for big borrowers made defaulting easy, creating major banking turmoil

- Loan rescheduling was the major tool that was used to shield defaulters, hiding their default status despite non-payment, during Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime to window-dress banks' health.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bbs-chummy-rules-big-borrowers-made-defaulting-easy-creating-major-banking-turmoil-1005866>

ENERGY | Pvt, public plants owe BDT 195 Bn to Petrobangla

- The Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and public sector power plants owe a cumulative amount of BDT 195 Bn to Petrobangla until mid-November for their consumption of natural gas to generate electricity, officials said on Saturday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/pvt-public-plants-owe-tk-195b-to-petrobangla>

Important News: Stocks

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's export up 22% in FY24, as it diversifies markets, products

- The country's largest drug manufacturer's export revenue stood at BDT 2.39 Bn in FY24, up from BDT 1.96 Bn the year before, according to its annual report published recently.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/square-pharmas-export-up-22pc-in-fy24-as-it-diversifies-markets-products>

BANGAS | Bangas sees Q1 profit surge by 16%

- Bangas Ltd, a leading biscuit maker in Bangladesh, reported profit and revenue growth in the first quarter of its current financial year. The company's profit grew 16% year-on-year to BDT 0.56 Mn in Q1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangas-sees-q1-profit-surge-16-3768051>

SICL | Sikder Insurance proposes to invest BDT 60.8 Mn in govt treasury bonds

- After failing to meet the deadline for fully utilising its initial public offering (IPO) funds, Sikder Insurance Company has revised its fund utilisation plan, opting to invest BDT 60.8 Mn in government treasury bonds instead of purchasing floor space.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sikder-insurance-proposes-invest-tk608cr-govt-treasury-bonds-1010426>

DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank's services to remain suspended temporarily

- Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC has received approval to temporarily suspend certain banking services to facilitate a seamless migration to a new core banking software system.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dutch-bangla-banks-services-remain-suspended-temporarily-3768386>

ACTIVEFINE | BSEC forms body to look into Active Fine's irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a three-member committee to investigate alleged financial irregularities at Active Fine Chemicals Ltd, a publicly listed supplier of bulk drug materials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-forms-body-look-active-fines-irregularities-1010471>

KAY&QUE | How merger brings blessing for Kay & Que's business

- Kay & Que (Bangladesh), a publicly listed company primarily engaged in CNG refuelling and stone sales, has undergone a remarkable transformation since its merger with MultiSourcing Limited, an IT firm.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-merger-brings-blessing-kay-ques-business-1008556>

NTC | Govt orders NTC to sell 2.2 Mn kg of tea to settle workers' wages

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has directed the state-owned National Tea Company (NTC) to immediately auction 2.2 Mn kg of tea to cover unpaid wages for its workers and employees.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-orders-ntc-sell-22-lakh-kg-tea-settle-workers-wages-1009486>

DAFODILCOM | Daffodil Computers to issue shares at BDT 10, far below market price

- Daffodil Computers plans to issue fresh shares to convert loans from Daffodil Family businesses into equity at BDT 10 per share, significantly lower than today's closing price of BDT 63.9 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/daffodil-computers-issue-shares-tk10-far-below-market-price-1009461>

ACMELAB | ACME Lab sponsor to sell shares to ease Sinha Securities deficit

- Sinha Securities' Chairman Parveen Akhter Khanam will sell 0.2 Mn shares from her holdings of 6.52 Mn shares in ACME Laboratories to reduce the deficit in the brokerage firm's consolidated customer account (CCA).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/acme-lab-sponsor-sell-shares-ease-sinha-securities-deficit-1008561>

SUMITPOWER | Summit, Petrobangla disputing USD 22 Mn bill

- Summit has run into a payment dispute with Petrobangla over a USD 22 Mn bill for the four months its floating LNG terminal was out of commission due to damages from cyclone Remal. Summit is demanding USD 22 Mn when the terminal was offline, according to the latest Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) briefing, a global think-tank examining issues related to energy markets, trends, and policies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/summit-petrobangla-disputing-22m-bill-3767861>

EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil relegated to junk status

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) downgraded Emerald Oil Industries to 'Z' category from 'A' category, effective from today (Tuesday), as its production has remained suspended since January this year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/emerald-oil-relegated-to-junk-status>

JAMUNAOIL | Jamuna Oil's profit soars record 29% on higher interest income

- Jamuna Oil Company reported a 29% year-on-year surge in profit, reaching a record BDT 4.42 Bn in the fiscal 2023-24, driven by substantial earnings from its fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) amid rising interest rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/jamuna-oils-profit-soars-record-29-higher-interest-income-1008466>

KTL | Kattali Textile to face the music for money laundering

- Kattali Textile has laundered money from the funds raised through its 2018 IPO. The stock market regulator has handed its investigation report to the CID for actions under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/kattali-textile-to-face-the-music-for-money-laundering>

EXCHANGE | Trillions embezzled from stock market

- Bangladesh's devastating 2010-11 stock market crash exposed the dark elements of a financial system riddled with manipulation, fraud, and weak regulatory enforcement. According to the White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh economy, prices of shares surged amid the influence of powerful business groups and regulatory lapses. Shares of some companies skyrocketed between 300% and 900% during 2009-10.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trillions-embezzled-stock-market-3766556>

SSSTEEL | SS Steel's Q1 profit surges 50%

- SS Steel Ltd, a prominent steel manufacturer in the country, saw its profit rise in the first quarter of the current financial year and its cash collection from customers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ss-steels-q1-profit-surges-50-3765831>

LIBRAINFU | Libra Infusions made a profit in three-quarters of FY22

- Libra Infusions Limited published its three-quarters financial statement from the July to March period of FY22, whereas the company posted impressive profit growth compared to the previous FY.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/libra-infusions-made-profit-three-quarters-fy22-1007531>

EXCHANGE | Sinha Securities asked to resolve CCA deficit to get its licence back

- As per a regulatory order, sponsor and chairman of Sinha Securities Parveen Akhter will have to sell 2.2 Mn shares from her holdings of shares of ACME Laboratories. She is also a sponsor shareholder of the listed pharmaceutical company.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sinha-securities-asked-to-resolve-cca-deficit-to-get-its-licence-back-1733074489>

EXCHANGE | Equity market controlled by influential frauds during Hasina's regime: White Paper

- Trillions of money was embezzled from the stock market through fraud, manipulation, placement shares, and IPOs, according to the final draft of White Paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/equity-market-controlled-by-influential-frauds-during-hasinas-regime-white-paper>

NBL | National Bank recovers BDT 9 Bn bad loans till Oct

- National Bank has been able to recover about BDT 9 Bn of defaulted loans as of October and initiatives are underway to recover another BDT 4 Bn by this year, said its chairman, Abdul Awal Mintoo, today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/national-bank-recovers-tk-900cr-bad-loans-till-oct-3764056>

GSPFINANCE | GSP Finance incurs BDT 780 Mn loss in Jan-Sep

- GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, a publicly listed non-bank financial institution (NBFII), incurred a loss of BDT 780 Mn during the January-September period of this year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gsp-finance-incurs-tk78cr-loss-jan-sep-1006571>

ICB | ICB secures BDT 30 Bn fund, but raises concerns over interest rate

- The central bank approved a BDT 30 Bn loan in favour of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to support its investment for stabilising capital market and repay its high-cost deposits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-secures-tk3000cr-fund-raises-concerns-over-interest-rate-1005256>

MAKSONSPIN | Maksons Spinning to boost stake in sister concern Maksons Textile

- To achieve this, the company plans to acquire an additional 20 Mn shares of Maksons Textile at BDT 10 per share. The total investment for this acquisition is BDT 200 Bn, pending approval from shareholders at its annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled for 17 February 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/maksons-spinning-boost-stake-sister-concern-maksons-textile-1005226>

GIB | Global Islami Bank incurs BDT 570 Mn loss in Jul-Sep

- Global Islami Bank incurred a loss of BDT 570 Mn in the July-September quarter of this year due to keeping higher provisions against classified loans. According to the bank statement, its loss per share stood at BDT 0.55 during the quarter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/global-islami-bank-incurs-tk57cr-loss-jul-sep-1004446>

RINGSHINE | Ring Shine Textiles suffers loss of BDT 396 Mn despite higher revenue

- Struggling Ring Shine Textiles has reported a loss of BDT 396 Mn for July-September quarter this year, despite a rise in revenue. The company also suffered a loss of BDT 430 Mn in the same quarter last year, according to a filing with the stock exchange on Thursday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/ring-shine-textiles-suffers-loss-of-tk-396m-despite-higher-revenue-1732902116>

MIRAKHTER | BSEC looks into Mir Akhter's IPO, bond proceeds utilization

- The securities regulator has formed a committee to review the utilisation of BDT 3.32 Bn raised through an initial public offering (IPO) and a zero-coupon bond by Mir Akhter Hossain Limited – a construction giant.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-looks-mir-akhters-ipo-bond-proceeds-utilisation-1006566>

EXCHANGE | Cos prefer bank loans to delayed funding through IPO

- The approval of an IPO (initial public offering) proposal takes longer in Bangladesh than in peer countries in the absence of any clear guidelines to comply with for public offerings, say merchant bankers.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/cos-prefer-bank-loans-to-delayed-funding-through-ipo-1732982996>

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