

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-1.76%) lost -91.39 points and closed the week at 5,105.43 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-1.57%) lost -30.02 points and stood at 1,881.90 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-2.06%) lost -23.92 points and stood at 1,140.05 points. The large cap index CDSET (-1.44%) lost -15.26 points and closed at 1,042.43 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -18.27%, -10.12%, -16.43%, -13.33%. respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 16.1 billion (USD 134 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 3.2 billion (Δ% Week: -27.5%)
Market P/E: 14.5x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started off as negative on Sunday (-0.3%), and remained negative on Monday (-0.3%) and remained negative on Tuesday (-0.0%). and remained negative on Wednesday (-0.8%) and ended negative as well on Thursday (-0.4%).

Sectoral Performance

· All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. NBF I experienced the highest loss of -4.36% followed by Mutual Fund (-4.16%), Life Insurance (-3.85%), Bank (-2.69%), and General Insurance (-1.87%).

· All the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 3.04% followed by Fuel & Power (-1.34%), Telecommunication (-1.08%), Pharmaceutical (-1.06%), and Engineering (-1.03%).

Macroeconomic Arena

IMF offers extra USD 1 Bn for reforms. ADB approves USD 600 Mn policy-based loan. Subsidy arrears to be cleared using unspent ADP funds. Remittance dollar rate jumps BDT 2 in two weeks amid rising demand. Bangladesh among top 8 countries for population outflows: Mastercard. Bangladesh's unemployment picture is darker than it appears. BANK | Cenbank to launch forensic audits of troubled banks in January. BANK | Taka flowing back to banks, but slowly. BANK | Bank deposits drop nearly 1% in Q1. BANK | Scam-hit Janata Bank seeks BDT 200 Bn urgent bailout. IMF talks BB autonomy, reforms to monetary policy, exchange rate formula. China Bangladesh's top trading partner in FY24. Economic Census 2024 kicks off after 10 years.

BANK | BB reduces repo auctions to one day a week. BANK | Six state-run commercial banks get new MDs. Forex reserves on the rise: BB Governor assures stability. Structural reforms demanded for SME sector development. Foreign debt servicing surges 29% in Jul-Sep. Job market shrinkage pushes high-skill labour force into low-paid livelihoods. Past gov't empty promises: Starting business still a nightmare. ENERGY | Gas supply improves as spot LNG imports resume. BANK | Six banks get BDT 16 Bn to ease liquidity crisis. BANK | Devolvement on PDs in primary auction of gov't securities set to go. Budget support from WB, IMF, ADB: Bangladesh may get USD 5.65 Bn by this fiscal year.

Stock Market Arena

DACCADYE | Dacca Dyeing attributes increased FY24 loss to gas line disconnection. PARAMOUNT | Paramount Textile's profit plunges 20% in July- Sep. GHAIL | Auditor flags high liability risk for Golden Harvest. TAMIJTEX | Tamijuddin Textile posts 2.33% profit growth in July- Sep. BERGERPBL | Berger to raise BDT 3 Bn with rights offer to build 3rd factory. BDFINANCE | 8 Bangladesh Finance share manipulators fined BDT 0.71 Bn. BEXIMCO, BXPHERMA, SPCERAMICS | Three Beximco firms to face special audit. EXCHANGE | 10 Bangladeshi firms now on Bloomberg sustainability list. EXCHANGE | Regulator to continue to punish fraudsters despite concerns over market volatility. UCB, GENEXIL | Genex Infosys owner Adnan Imam bagged BDT 20 Bn loans from UCB violating rules, claims bank chair. EXCHANGE | BSEC warns dividend payout defaulters of strict action.

DSEX ended in Red (-1.76%) in the week

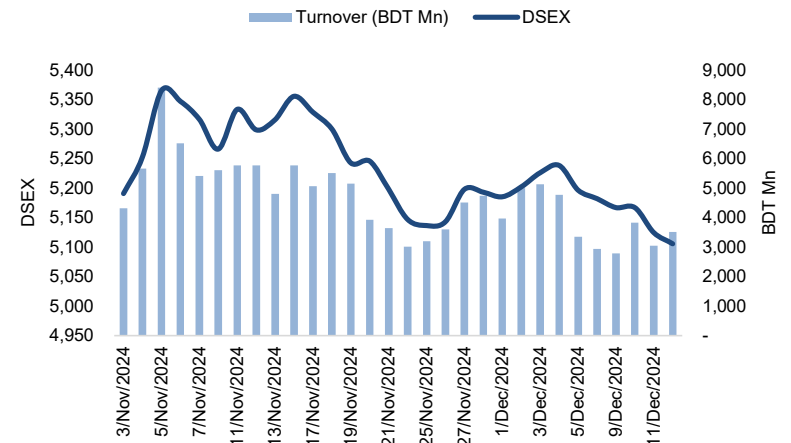
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	28-Dec-2023	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,105.43	5,196.82	-91.39	6,246.50	-1.76%	-18.27%
DS30	1,881.90	1,911.92	-30.02	2,093.83	-1.57%	-10.12%
DSES	1,140.05	1,163.97	-23.92	1,364.13	-2.06%	-16.43%
CDSET	1,042.43	1,057.69	-15.26	1,202.82	-1.44%	-13.33%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,524,964	6,637,050	
	Mn USD	54,375	55,309	-1.69%
Turnover	Mn BDT	16,109	22,217	-27.49%
	Mn USD	134	185	
Average Daily	Mn BDT	3,222	4,443	
	Mn USD	27	37	-27.49%
Volume	Mn Shares	646	960	-32.66%

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
MIRACLEIND	28.9	22.6	+27.9%	1,018	117.5	NM	2.3x
HRTEX	34.7	29.6	+17.2%	1,014	57.0	NM	1.0x
AOL	15.1	12.9	+17.1%	1,658	16.6	9.7x	0.8x
SAIHAMCOT	16.6	14.4	+15.3%	2,470	351.5	16.8x	0.4x
METROSPIN	11.5	10.0	+15.0%	710	12.2	NM	1.8x
SONARGAON	26.0	22.9	+13.5%	688	90.7	70.3x	1.3x
HAMI	85.4	75.9	+12.5%	658	13.0	NM	9.4x
LRBDL	13.3	11.9	+11.8%	1,932	33.0	NM	0.4x
SAIHAMTEX	16.7	15.3	+9.2%	1,512	102.6	25.7x	0.4x
AAMRATECH	18.9	17.4	+8.6%	1,223	13.6	NM	0.9x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
1STPRIMFMF	33.9	44.5	-23.8%	678	218.7	NM	3.2x
KBPPWBIL	125.8	144.8	-13.1%	12,338	166.2	NM	10.6x
EASTRNLUB	1,303.3	1,476.1	-11.7%	1,881	19.5	45.0x	6.6x
ISLAMIBANK	45.6	51.5	-11.5%	73,416	199.7	15.7x	1.0x
ALLTEX	8.9	10.0	-11.0%	498	14.0	44.5x	0.4x
GEMINISEA	153.9	171.7	-10.4%	1,644	35.1	88.1x	8.8x
FINEFOODS	198.4	221.1	-10.3%	2,772	192.2	NM	16.6x
MIDLANDBNK	30.1	33.3	-9.6%	19,254	115.8	17.4x	2.1x
GENEXIL	28.7	31.7	-9.5%	3,457	250.1	11.5x	1.4x
MONOSPOOL	114.1	125.4	-9.0%	3,891	46.3	32.4x	2.6x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ORIONINFU	320.2	315.0	+1.7%	6,519	441.7	NM	20.0x
DSSL	12.1	11.5	+5.2%	2,551	414.6	39.0x	0.7x
ASIATICLAB	35.2	33.6	+4.8%	4,308	381.9	14.9x	0.7x
SAIHAMCOT	16.6	14.4	+15.3%	2,470	351.5	16.8x	0.4x
NRBBANK	12.7	13.1	-3.1%	8,770	336.9	20.9x	1.0x
LOVELLO	84.6	86.6	-2.3%	7,910	328.9	46.1x	6.5x
BXPHERMA	84.3	82.1	+2.7%	37,607	324.0	6.3x	0.8x
BSC	84.3	88.3	-4.5%	12,859	251.1	4.4x	0.8x
GENEXIL	28.7	31.7	-9.5%	3,457	250.1	11.5x	1.4x
SQURPHARMA	212.4	214.0	-0.7%	188,282	245.3	9.0x	1.4x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BRACBANK	48.3	+48.4%	85,477	7.7x	1.1x
ISLAMIBANK	45.6	+39.9%	73,416	15.7x	1.0x
UNILEVERCL	2,542.9	+25.9%	49,013	66.7x	20.9x
JAMUNAOIL	188.6	+11.9%	20,826	4.3x	0.8x
CITYBANK	21.5	+10.5%	28,962	4.0x	0.7x
GP	314.6	+9.8%	424,804	12.0x	7.4x
PRIMEBANK	23.0	+9.5%	26,043	4.1x	0.7x
MPETROLEUM	215.0	+8.3%	23,266	4.0x	0.9x
MJLBD	92.7	+6.9%	29,363	9.8x	1.8x
OLYMPIC	154.5	+1.6%	30,891	16.8x	2.8x

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

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,406.4	1,445.3	1,455.32	-2.69%	-3.36%
NBFI	1,257.6	1,314.9	1,902.52	-4.36%	-33.90%
Mutual Fund	598.5	624.4	876.90	-4.16%	-31.75%
General Insurance	2,732.0	2,784.2	3,489.09	-1.87%	-21.70%
Life Insurance	1,832.6	1,906.0	2,637.78	-3.85%	-30.53%
Telecommunication	4,968.0	5,022.3	4,945.60	-1.08%	+0.45%
Pharmaceutical	2,897.8	2,928.8	3,732.58	-1.06%	-22.36%
Fuel & Power	1,120.1	1,135.3	1,691.80	-1.34%	-33.79%
Cement	1,960.5	2,002.3	2,523.22	-2.09%	-22.30%
Services & Real Estate	1,013.9	1,052.8	1,518.57	-3.69%	-33.23%
Engineering	2,480.1	2,505.9	4,520.40	-1.03%	-45.13%
Food & Allied	16,316.0	16,827.9	21,180.76	-3.04%	-22.97%
IT	1,962.0	2,049.5	2,894.80	-4.27%	-32.22%
Textile	1,099.3	1,093.2	1,658.23	+0.56%	-33.71%
Paper & Printing	4,045.7	4,311.5	10,093.63	-6.17%	-59.92%
Tannery	1,947.4	1,979.6	3,103.94	-1.63%	-37.26%
Jute	14,621.4	15,162.5	17,683.51	-3.57%	-17.32%
Ceramics	363.3	376.9	694.56	-3.62%	-47.69%
Miscellaneous	4,150.6	4,196.8	4,265.32	-1.10%	-2.69%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	322.6	594.7	-45.76%	+10.83%	8.6x	0.7x
NBFI	108.0	200.3	-46.11%	+3.62%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	125.7	180.3	-30.29%	+4.22%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	118.1	150.9	-21.75%	+3.96%	14.1x	1.2x
Life Insurance	61.5	91.1	-32.45%	+2.07%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	57.9	116.7	-50.33%	+1.95%	13.8x	4.1x
Pharmaceutical	520.1	592.0	-12.15%	+17.46%	14.0x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	164.0	249.8	-34.34%	+5.51%	14.1x	0.6x
Cement	27.2	40.1	-32.08%	+0.91%	15.7x	2.0x
Services & Real Estate	98.5	184.6	-46.65%	+3.31%	18.6x	0.4x
Engineering	282.2	400.5	-29.53%	+9.48%	12.3x	0.8x
Food & Allied	226.7	313.3	-27.64%	+7.61%	16.0x	4.2x
IT	138.8	289.4	-52.02%	+4.66%	19.0x	1.6x
Textile	485.0	493.4	-1.69%	+16.28%	77.6x	0.8x
Paper & Printing	34.2	61.1	-43.94%	+1.15%	NM	0.8x
Tannery	12.9	25.3	-48.75%	+0.43%	66.4x	1.5x
Jute	33.8	44.2	-23.47%	+1.14%	NM	NM
Ceramics	24.8	54.2	-54.22%	+0.83%	NM	1.0x
Miscellaneous	136.4	162.5	-16.10%	+4.58%	40.7x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
IPDC	19.6	-64.3%	7,637	24.3x	1.1x
BSCABLES	18.4	-63.1%	3,895	NM	0.6x
ACTIVEFINE	8.1	-58.0%	1,943	NM	0.4x
DOREENPWR	25.8	-57.7%	4,673	17.3x	0.5x
WALTONHIL	481.9	-54.0%	145,981	11.2x	1.3x
SUMITPOWER	15.9	-53.2%	16,979	22.4x	0.4x
KPCL	12.5	-53.0%	4,968	NM	0.7x
BARKAPOWER	10.3	-51.6%	2,425	10.1x	0.5x
IFDAUTOS	21.5	-51.2%	5,710	NM	0.6x
GPHISPAT	21.2	-50.4%	10,258	10.8x	0.4x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

IMF offers extra USD 1 Bn for reforms

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered an additional USD 1 Bn to Bangladesh but the government is pushing for at least USD 2 Bn to implement the interim government's reform agenda, narrow the deficit in the current account and shore up the dollar stockpile.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-offers-extra-1b-reforms-3774236>

ADB approves USD 600 Mn policy-based loan

- A fast-delivery credit of USD 600 Mn has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for budget and reform supports to enable Bangladesh weather transitional economic impacts and boost forex reserves.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adb-approves-600m-policy-based-loan-1733939663>

Subsidy arrears to be cleared using unspent ADP funds

- The government plans to clear all outstanding subsidies for the fertiliser, electricity, and energy sectors – a substantial accumulation over the past few years – within the current fiscal year using unspent allocations from the Annual Development Programme (ADP), according to Finance Division sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/subsidy-arrears-be-cleared-using-unspent-adp-funds-1016476>

Remittance dollar rate jumps BDT 2 in two weeks amid rising demand

- The remittance dollar rate, a key indicator of the real-time dollar price, has risen by nearly BDT 2 in just two weeks, driven by mounting payment pressure on banks, especially state-owned banks, which are purchasing more dollars than ever to settle overdue LC payments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/remittance-dollar-rate-jumps-tk2-two-weeks-amid-rising-demand-1016481>

Bangladesh among top 8 countries for population outflows: Mastercard

- Bangladesh is among the top eight countries with the highest population outflows, driven by the pursuit of better opportunities abroad and concerns over security at home, according to a Mastercard report.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-among-top-8-countries-population-outflows-mastercard-1016391>

Bangladesh's unemployment picture is darker than it appears

- The past government had been relying on international definitions and standards that are over four decades old to measure labour data, painting a rosy picture of low unemployment and an improved labour market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-unemployment-picture-darker-it-appears-3774226>

BANK | Cenbank to launch forensic audits of troubled banks in January

- The Bangladesh Bank has launched a forensic audit into a dozen struggling banks to uncover potential fraud, assess financial damage, and propose reforms in a move to address long-standing issues plaguing the banking sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-launch-forensic-audits-troubled-banks-january-1015606>

BANK | Taka flowing back to banks, but slowly

- After a 10-month surge in mattress money, excess cash outside the banking system has started to decline over the past two months, albeit slowly. Bankers attributed this shift to the gradual restoration of customer confidence in banks and a reduction in financial irregularities under the interim government.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/taka-flowing-back-banks-slowly-1016396>

BANK | Bank deposits drop nearly 1% in Q1

- Deposits in Bangladesh's banking sector dropped by nearly 1% during the July-September 2024 period, the first quarter of the FY 25, compared to the preceding quarter, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bank-deposits-drop-nearly-10pc-in-q1-1733939756>

BANK | Scam-hit Janata Bank seeks BDT 200 Bn urgent bailout

- Hit by alleged big-business lending scams, the state-owned Janata Bank has sought some BDT 200 Bn in an urgent bailout as its capital base plummeted into negative territory, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/scam-hit-janata-bank-seeks-tk-200b-urgent-bailout-1733939557>

INSURANCE | Non-life insurers settled just 10% of Jan-Sep claims

- Non-life insurance companies in Bangladesh have settled just 10% of claims in the first nine months of this year, as per data of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/non-life-insurers-settled-just-10-jan-sep-claims-3774206>

IMF talks BB autonomy, reforms to monetary policy, exchange rate formula

- A review mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has focused on changing monetary policy, amending the Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 and revising the country's exchange rate system during discussions with the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-imf-mull-over-dollar-exchange-rate-reform-1015436>

China Bangladesh's top trading partner in FY24

- China maintained its position as Bangladesh's largest trading partner in FY24, with bilateral trade amounting to BDT 2.246 Tn, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/china-bangladeshs-top-trading-partner-in-fy24-1733855492>

Signs of trend reversal as imports continue to rebound

- Despite capital machinery imports decreasing sharply, the resurgence in Bangladesh's overall imports continued for a third straight month in October due to increased production in industries, especially export-oriented sectors, signalling that there may be some light at the end of the tunnel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/signs-trend-reversal-imports-continue-rebound-3773251>

Economic Census 2024 kicks off after 10 years

- The census, which aims to get a comprehensive understanding of the structural changes in the nation's economy over time, will be conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) from 10 to 26 December utilising a fully digital system.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economic-census-2024-kicks-after-10-years-1015176>

Bangladesh owes USD 124 Mn in blocked airline funds

- Bangladesh has reduced the amount of funds belonging to airlines that have been blocked from repatriation by USD 124 Mn over the last six months, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said recently.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-owes-124m-blocked-airline-funds-3773211>

BANK | Crore-taka bank accounts drop by 1,657 in Jul-Sep

- The number of bank accounts in Bangladesh holding deposits of at least BDT 10 Mn decreased by 1,657 during the July-September quarter of 2024, according to BB.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/crore-taka-bank-accounts-drop-1657-jul-sep-1015571>

AUTOMOTIVE | Chinese firm to set up battery plates plant at BEPZA EZ

- BEPZA has signed a lease agreement with Bangladesh Prothoma Power Supply Ltd., a Chinese company, which will set up a battery plates manufacturing plant in the BEPZA Economic Zone (EZ).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/chinese-firm-to-set-up-battery-plates-plant-at-bepza-ez-1733852750>

Economic Census 2024 kicks off tomorrow

- The fourth Economic Census of the country will start on Tuesday, aiming to have a comprehensive understanding of the structural changes in the nation's economy over time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economic-census-2024-kicks-tomorrow-1014266>

ADB approves USD 100 Mn more loan for infrastructure development in Bangladesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an additional USD 100 Mn loan to support critical infrastructure development through public-private partnerships (PPP) in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/adb-approves-100m-more-loan-infrastructure-development-bangladesh-1014051>

BB to keep policy rates unchanged as panel suggests shift from crawling peg

- A high-powered panel of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) decided to maintain the policy rate at 10% until the inflation comes down to a desired level and also spoke about moving away from the crawling peg and letting market forces determine the US dollar exchange rate.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-keep-policy-rates-unchanged-panel-suggests-shift-crawling-peg-3772511>

Bangladesh has become a de facto defaulter: Debapriya

- Distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Debapriya Bhattacharya said the rapid increase in foreign debt over the last three years has led to the deterioration of the country's situation, which once boasted, "We have never defaulted on any loan".

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-has-become-de-facto-defaulter-debapriya-1014546>

NBR to cut tax exemptions once economy improves: chairman

- The government will rationalise tax exemptions once the country's economic situation improves to some extent, according to National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-cut-tax-exemptions-once-economy-improves-chairman-3772486>

Elusive indicator of debt-GDP ratio used: Experts

- A false narrative of development was created during the previous regime by using an elusive indicator of the debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio without considering repayment capacity, economists told a programme Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/elusive-indicator-of-debt-gdp-ratio-used-experts-1733769592>

FUEL & POWER | No IOC bids for exploration

- Not a single international oil company (IOC) did come for bidding, finally, following open tendering by the state-run Petrobangla to attract foreign investment for bay hydrocarbon exploration, said sources.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-ioc-bids-for-exploration-1733769635>

BANK | 71% of classified loans concentrated in 10 banks till June quarter

- Around 70.58% of the classified loans in the country's 61 state-owned and private banks are concentrated in just 10 banks, according to a Bangladesh Bank report, published yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/71-classified-loans-concentrated-10-banks-till-june-quarter-1014541>

RMG | Yarn, fabrics, accessories show to begin from 11 Dec

- The 10th Yarn, Fabrics and Accessories show, a focused sourcing event for yarn, fabrics, and accessories, is scheduled to take place from 11-14 December at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the city.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/yarn-fabrics-accessories-show-begin-11-dec-1014306>

HEALTHCARE | Square Hospitals revenue reaches BDT 6.18 Bn, profit grows 27% in FY24

- Square Hospitals has reported BDT 6.18 Bn in revenue for the fiscal year 2023-24, with its profit surging by 27% to BDT 468.7 Mn compared to the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-hospitals-revenue-reaches-tk618cr-profit-grows-27-fy24-1013706>

RMG | RMG workers' wage to go up 9% annually

- Garment workers will get the enhanced wages from January, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) adviser of the interim government M Sakhawat Hussain made the announcement at a press briefing after a meeting held at his secretariat office in Dhaka.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rmg-workers-wage-to-go-up-90pc-annually-1733769343>

First week of December sees remittance increase to over USD 616 Mn

- In a promising sign for Bangladesh's economy, expatriates sent USD 616.4 Mn in remittance during the first seven days of December, according to the latest report from the Bangladesh Bank released today (8 December).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-over-616-million-remittance-first-week-dec-1013451>

Bangladesh's PMI indicates key economic sectors' expansion in Nov

- Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) score in November saw an increase of 6.5 points from October to reach 62.2 points indicating expansion of key economic sectors, except construction.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-pmi-indicates-key-economic-sectors-expansion-nov-1013361>

Previous govt appointed bureaucrats as cenbank governors with ill intent: Fahmida Khatun

- Despite regulations prohibiting current or former government officials from serving as central bank governor or deputy governor, bureaucratic appointments to the position had been made by the previous government to exert undue influence, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/previous-govt-appointed-bureaucrats-bb-governors-ill-intent-fahmida-khatun-1013391>

Firms struggle to sustain profitability amid demand slump, high interest

- Businesses registered a strong profitability recovery until June this year after two turbulent years marking the Ukraine war, but a decline by roughly 18% from the previous quarter has blurred their future outlook amid a slump in demand and a jump in interest rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/firms-struggle-sustain-profitability-amid-demand-slump-high-interest-1013741>

Govt to slash 43% of CA's spl budget

- The interim government has decided to cut approximately 43% of the special budget allocation previously designated under deposed premier Sheikh Hasina who fled to India amid a student-mass movement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-slash-43pc-of-cas-spl-budget-1733684838>

BANK | BB goes for dollar buy to bolster reserves

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) in a major policy shift intensifies its focus on buying more US dollars from the market to protect the country's fast-depleting foreign exchange (forex) reserves, officials and bankers have said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-goes-for-dollar-buy-to-bolster-reserves-1733684324>

BANK | BB decides against another hike in interest rates

- The review meeting of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) monetary policy committee (MPC) has decided not to increase the policy interest rate for the time being, reports UNB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-decides-against-another-hike-in-interest-rates-1733685006>

BANK | SoCBs' liquidity crunch amid NPL buildup under scrutiny

- Non-performing loan (NPL) buildup in Bangladesh's banking sector and liquidity stresses in the state-owned commercial banks came up for IMF scrutiny Sunday during a review of agreed reforms, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/socbs-liquidity-crunch-amid-npl-buildup-under-scrutiny-1733683985>

RMG | 40% of RMG businesses face LC opening delays: BIDS survey

- A recent survey by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has revealed that 40% of the country's ready-made garment (RMG) businesses are grappling with delays in opening letters of credit (LC) due to a shortage of US dollars.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/40-rmg-businesses-face-lc-opening-delays-bids-survey-1013711>

RMG | Bangladesh's apparel share in US market falls by 3.33%

- Bangladesh's exports grew 11.76% in 5 months from July - November of FY2024-25 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. However, Bangladesh's share of apparel exports into the US market decreased by 3.33% year-on-year in the January-October period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladeshs-apparel-share-us-market-falls-333-1013556>

RMG | Female workforce in garment industry slips to 53%

- The share of women working in Bangladesh's garment industry decreased over the past decade, with female participation falling to 53% in 2023 from 56% in 2014, according to a recent study.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/female-workforce-garment-industry-slips-53-3771696>

CERAMICS | Moynul Islam made president of BCMEA

- Moynul Islam, vice-chairman of Monno Ceramic Industries, has been selected as the acting president of the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BCMEA) today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/moynul-islam-made-president-bcmea-3771431>

Revised budget may be BDT 500 Bn smaller

- Bangladesh's national budget for fiscal year 2024-25 is likely to be reduced by more than BDT 500 Bn, with the entire cut expected to be made in funds meant for the annual development programme (ADP).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/revised-budget-may-be-tk-50000cr-smaller-3770641>

Investment abroad hits USD 2 Bn in 6 years

- According to data released by Bangladesh Bank (BB) recently, outbound FDI from Bangladesh in the past six years till fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 stood at USD 2.07 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/investment-abroad-hits-2b-6-years-3770631>

Business leaders call for delaying LDC graduation by 3-6 years

- Business leaders have called for a delay of 3 to 6 years in Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status, arguing that the country will lose its global market competitiveness if the transition comes too soon.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/business-leaders-call-delaying-ldc-graduation-3-6-years-1012871>

Bangladesh economy should be more open to escape middle-income trap: WB chief economist

- 6 Bn people in middle-income countries are in a race against time and the external environment is making things harder, he said at the Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) 2024, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), in Dhaka today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-economy-should-be-more-open-escape-middle-income-trap-wb-chief-economist-1012491>

Inflation increases in November to 11.38%

- The inflation rate jumped to a record high at 11.38% in November, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Food inflation surged to 13.8% during the month. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, also edged higher, reaching 9.39% in November compared to 9.34% in the previous month.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/inflation-hits-record-high-in-november>

FOOD & ALLIED | ADB, Meghna Group sign USD 20 Mn deal for green flour mill

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Meghna Group of Industries have signed a USD 20 Mn loan agreement to support the construction of a greenfield, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient flour-milling plant in Bangladesh.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/adb-meghna-group-sign-20m-deal-for-green-flour-mill-1733422342>

FUEL & POWER | Numerous IOCs upbeat about bay gas exploration

- "We are hoping that a good number of IOCs will submit bids for oil-and-gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal as many of them purchased bid documents and kept enquiring on it for long," a senior Petrobangla official told the FE Saturday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/numerous-iocs-upbeat-about-bay-gas-exploration-1733595909>

BANK | Inflation eating up most bank deposit gains

- Most bank depositors in Bangladesh see their capital-gains evaporate as high inflation continues to outstrip fixed-deposit interest, stoking concerns about the real value of their money.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/inflation-eating-up-most-bank-deposit-gains-1733506976>

BANK | Agri loan disbursement down 21.48% in July-October

- Agricultural loan disbursement in Bangladesh experienced a noticeable downturn during the first four months of FY25 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) data shows disbursement stood at BDT 93.91 Bn in July-October of FY25, down from BDT 119.6 Bn in the corresponding period of FY24.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/agri-loan-disbursement-down-2148pc-in-july-october-1733507244>

BANK | Private sector credit growth dwindles amid lower demand

- Private-sector-credit growth fell further in October 2024 mainly due to lower demand, particularly for trade financing, as uncertainty is still prevailing since August 05, bankers said. The growth came down to 8.30% in October 2024 year-on-year from 9.20% a month ago, according to the Bangladesh Bank's latest statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/private-sector-credit-growth-dwindles-amid-lower-demand-1733424286>

NBFI | 13 NBFIs spent BDT 8.3 Mn on Mujib Borsho

- Despite the profit erosion over the years, a good number of non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) spent a huge amount of money on celebrating 'Mujib Borsho', sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/13-nbfis-spent-tk-83m-on-mujib-borsho-1733596597>

FOOD & ALLIED | BSFIC seeks BDT 2.24 Bn for payments to retirees

- According to sources, BSFIS has pleaded with the government to provide the money from the losses that accumulated through trade gaps and subsidy at more than BDT 80 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bsfic-seeks-tk-224b-for-payments-to-retirees-1733596538>

FUEL & POWER | Uninterrupted LNG supply to cost BDT 50 Bn in state subsidy soon

- The Petrobangla authority in a letter to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, which was forwarded to the Finance Division late last month, estimated that the shortage of funds to import required LNG until December 30 will stand at BDT 57.82 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/uninterrupted-lng-supply-to-cost-tk-50b-in-state-subsidy-soon-1733506907>

Important News: Stocks

DACCADYE | Dacca Dyeing attributes increased FY24 loss to gas line disconnection

- The Dacca Dyeing and Manufacturing Company, one of the oldest home textile manufacturers in the country, faced a significantly larger loss in the fiscal year 2023-24 compared to the loss it reported in the previous fiscal year. The company has attributed the loss to a decreased turnover caused mainly from the suspension of the factory's gas line connection.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dacca-dyeing-attributes-increased-fy24-loss-gas-line-disconnection-1016466>

PARAMOUNT | Paramount Textile's profit plunges 20% in July- Sep

- Publicly listed Paramount Textile Limited, a sister concern of the Paramount Group, reported a 20% year-on-year decline in profit in the July–September quarter of the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25 due to the closure of the business operation of one of its associate companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paramount-textiles-profit-plunges-20-july-sep-1016461>

GPHISPAT | GPH Ispat responsible for flooding 2 Sitakunda villages, probe finds

- A Chattogram district administration investigation has determined that GPH Ispat, a steel manufacturing company in Bangladesh, is responsible for flooding two Sitakunda villages, affecting 2,500 people.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/gph-ispate-responsible-flooding-2-sitakunda-villages-probe-finds-1016491>

GHAIL | Auditor flags high liability risk for Golden Harvest

- Golden Harvest Agro Industries Limited – one of the leading frozen food and ice cream sellers in the country – is facing a high liability risk, with its bank loans amounting to 71% of shareholders' equity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/auditor-flags-high-liability-risk-golden-harvest-1016456>

TAMIJTEX | Tamijuddin Textile posts 2.33% profit growth in July- Sep

- Tamijuddin Textile Mills – a cotton and polyester yarn maker – posted 2.33% year-on-year profit growth in the July to September quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/tamijuddin-textile-posts-233-profit-growth-july-sep-1015506>

BERGERPBL | Berger to raise BDT 3 Bn with rights offer to build 3rd factory

- Berger Paints Bangladesh – a publicly traded multinational company – has planned to raise BDT 3.03 Bn through a rights offer to build its third factory at the National Special Economic Zone.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-paints-raise-tk300cr-issuing-rights-shares-1014766>

BDFINANCE | 8 Bangladesh Finance share manipulators fined BDT 0.71 Bn

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined a group of eight investors BDT 0.71 Bn for manipulating the shares of Bangladesh Finance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/8-bangladesh-finance-share-manipulators-fined-tk7057cr-1015461>

BEXIMCO, BXPHERMA, SPCERAMICS | Three Beximco firms to face special audit

- The securities regulator has decided for a special audit to check the past five years' financials of Beximco Limited, Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Shinepukur Ceramics – the three listed companies of Beximco Group.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/three-beximco-firms-face-special-audit-1015376>

EXCHANGE | 10 Bangladeshi firms now on Bloomberg sustainability list

- In an uptick in embracing sustainability, three more Bangladeshi listed firms have joined the Bloomberg Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) club, bringing the total to ten, including six homegrown companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/10-bangladeshi-firms-now-bloomberg-sustainability-list-1015586>

EXCHANGE | Regulator to continue to punish fraudsters despite concerns over market volatility

- The securities regulator hits back at the critics who are now blaming the market decline on its stringent actions against stock manipulators. As chief guest of the programme organised by The Financial Express and Watermark INC, Ms. Lalarukh said the securities regulator would not refrain from taking punitive measures against those responsible for fraudulent activities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-to-continue-to-punish-fraudsters-despite-concerns-over-market-volatility-1733852525>

UCB, GENEXIL | Genex Infosys owner Adnan Imam bagged BDT 20 Bn loans from UCB violating rules, claims bank chair

- Adnan Imam, the chairman of Genex Infosys Ltd, has secured loans totalling BDT 20 Bn from United Commercial Bank (UCB) by violating rules with help from people close to former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, Sharif Zahir, the bank's current chairman, has alleged in a letter sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/ucb-chair-requests-acc-investigate-irregularities-past-board-1013836>

SONALIANSH | Sonali Aansh inflated revenue, assets: Auditor

- In a qualified opinion published on the Dhaka Stock Exchange's (DSE) website on Monday, it said a revaluation of assets had been carried out in FY07 and the company did not estimate any depreciation on the additional value resulting from the revaluation of fixed assets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sonali-aansh-inflated-revenue-assets-auditor-1733759759>

EXCHANGE | BSEC warns dividend payout defaulters of strict action

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has warned that firms failing to disburse declared dividends to shareholders on time, along with their directors, will face strict punitive measures.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-warns-dividend-payout-defaulters-strict-action-1014486>

EXCHANGE | Additional Secretary Nahid resigns from DSE board

- Former Additional Secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, Nahid Hossain, has resigned from his position as an independent director of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), according to DSE sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/additional-secretary-nahid-resigns-dse-board-1014506>

EXCHANGE | Launch of first-ever ETF foiled as investors show apathy

- The possibility of the country's first-ever ETF (exchange-traded fund) vanished into thin air for incomplete subscriptions even after the second time extension. LankaBangla Asset Management, which had proposed LB Multi Asset Income ETF, had the subscription time extended to September this year for the second time. Still, it could not attract enough eligible investors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/launch-of-first-ever-etf-foiled-as-investors-show-apaty-1733759658>

ABBANK | AB Bank MD Tarique Afzal resigns

- Tarique Afzal, the managing director of AB Bank, has resigned from his position, citing health reasons. Afzal was on leave. He submitted his resignation letter to the bank's board of directors from Canada on Friday, and senior bank officials confirmed it to The Daily Star yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ab-bank-md-tarique-afzal-resigns-3771686>

WALTONHIL | Walton gets BDT 3.50 Bn orders at ATS Expo

- Walton received orders worth around BDT 3.50 Bn from various local and foreign companies at the "Advanced Technology Solution-ATS Expo 2024", the country's sole industrial expo organised by tech-giant Walton.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/walton-gets-tk-350cr-orders-ats-expo-3771476>

IFIC | A company with a table, two chairs even got crores of loan: How IFIC was fleeced of BDT 71.29 Bn

- Northstone Engineering Ltd got registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Company in November 2019. Within five days it opened an account with IFIC Bank's Gulshan branch and two days later, it got a BDT 8.07 Bn sub-contract for Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/company-table-two-chairs-even-got-crores-loan-how-ific-was-fleeced-tk7129cr-1012921>

BEXIMCO | Govt plans to put 32 Beximco cos on sale to resolve workers' unrest

- The interim government plans to sell ownership of 32 companies under the Beximco Group as a long-term solution to the ongoing workers' unrest over unpaid salaries and allowances.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-plans-put-32-beximco-cos-sale-resolve-workers-unrest-1011521>

SALVOCHEM | Salvo Chemical now plans to issue shares at BDT 16 each to its sponsor-directors

- To meet regulatory requirements, Salvo Chemical Industry Ltd has revised its plan and has now decided to issue shares at BDT 16 each to its existing sponsor-directors, instead of the earlier price of BDT 10 each.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/salvo-chemical-now-plans-to-issue-shares-at-tk-16-each-to-its-sponsor-directors-1733499051>

BSC | BSC issues tender to dispose of two old oil tankers

- An international tender was issued yesterday to dispose of both the 37-year-old ships, which cost the corporation around BDT 200 Mn annually for maintenance and repairs to keep them operational.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsc-issues-tender-dispose-two-old-oil-tankers-3769156>

EXCHANGE | Hiru, allies face hefty fines this time for stock manipulation

- Department of Cooperatives official Md Abul Khayer and his associates have been slammed with fines worth more than BDT 1.35 Bn for manipulating share prices of four listed companies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/hiru-allies-face-hefty-fines-this-time-for-stock-manipulation-1733421828>

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