

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+1.55%) gained 80.07 points and closed the week at 5,234.38 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.77%) gained 15.31 points and stood at 2,001.85 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+3.64%) gained 37.64 points and stood at 1,072.13 points. The large cap index CDSET (+2.15%) gained 23.30 points and closed at 1,105.86 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +7.59%, +8.00%, +7.14%, +10.06%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 26.7 billion (USD 218 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 6.7 billion (Δ% Week: +15.3%)

Market P/E: 15.2x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed four sessions this week. It started positively on Sunday (+0.76%) and remained positive throughout Monday (+1.05%) and Tuesday (+0.36%). However, it ended the week on negative on Thursday (-0.61%).

Sectoral Performance

Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Bank booked the highest gain of 3.79% followed by Mutual Fund (+3.40%), and NBFI (+2.37%). General Insurance experienced the highest loss of 3.89% followed by Life Insurance (-1.97%).

Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors posted positive performance this week. Engineering booked the highest gain of 5.66% followed by Pharmaceutical (+0.96%), Food & Allied (+0.56%), Fuel & Power (+0.23%), and Telecommunication (-1.46%).

Macroeconomic Arena

Bangladesh to sign first-ever EPA with Japan on Friday. LC opening for imports edges up in July-December. BB buys USD 171 Mn, total purchases hit USD 4.32 Bn in FY2025-26. Bangladesh must cut logistics costs, close policy gaps to stay trade-competitive: AmCham. BD stands to lose in EU, US mkt amid India tariff deals. External debt almost doubles in just over three years. Ctg port grinds to a halt as workers strike over NCT lease. Gold climbs back near USD 5,100. RMG | No decision as finance ministry meets stakeholders on duty-free yarn imports. Oil extends gains. Interim govt to leave funds for new pay scale. TELECOM | BTRC drops plan to cut SIM limit to five.

Remittance inflow hits USD 3.17 Bn in January, third-highest on record. How Bangladesh economy stands to gain as dollar hits four-year low. 35.33% of govt's operating expenditure goes to interest payments in Q1. Private sector credit growth hits record low. Revenue board bifurcation loses way in legal labyrinth. BANK | T-bill yields climb after new PD guidelines. BANK | Banks asked to collect data on farm loans of up to BDT 10,000. BANK | Credit card growth: Built on supermarkets, serving a meagre bracket. MFS | Daily MFS transaction cap of BDT 10,000 likely during election week. MFS | Monthly transactions of Nagad hit record BDT 403 Bn. TEXTILE | RMG exports to US fall in value and volume amid higher tariffs.

Stock Market Arena

RAKCERAMIC | RAK Ceramics posts BDT 395.9 Mn loss in 2025 despite 10.56% revenue growth. PUBALIBANK & BRACBANK | Pubali Bank, bKash launch automated cash service. EXCHANGE | Stabilisation fund for stocks to stay in bank, be managed risk-free. GP | GP declares 105pc final cash dividend for 2025. UPGDCL | United Power lifts profit on deep cost cuts amid revenue slump. MIDLANDBNK | Midland Bank receives Mastercard membership licence. ALARABANK | CBS upgrade underway at Al-Arafah Islami Bank. WALTONHIL | Walton inaugurates ACC Kappa Compressor. SINGERBD | Singer's losses widen, but investors bet on new plant payoff. ONEBANKPLC | Ziaul Islam made DMD of ONE Bank. SAPORTL | Export slowdown hits Summit Alliance Port as container handling drops in H1. SINGERBD | Singer Bangladesh losses swell, skips dividend for 2025. NCCBANK | NCC Bank launches automated risk management system.

DSEX ended in Green (+1.55%) in the week

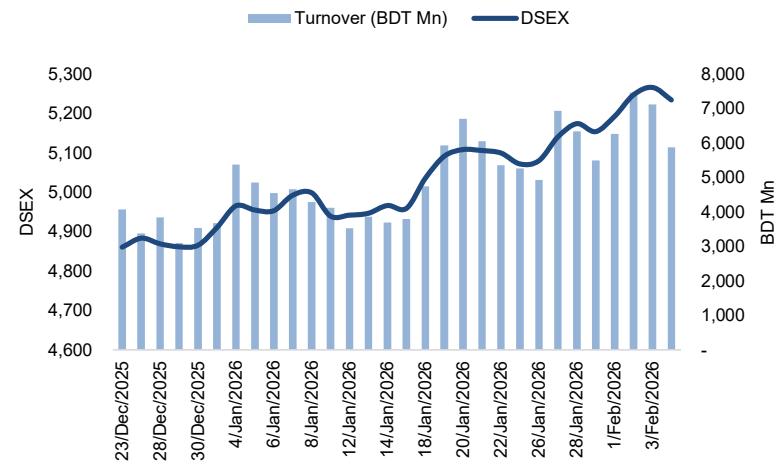
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2025	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,234.38	5,154.31	+80.07	4,865.34	1.55%	7.59%
DS30	2,001.85	1,986.54	+15.31	1,853.54	0.77%	8.00%
DSES	1,072.13	1,034.49	+37.64	1,000.72	3.64%	7.14%
CDSET	1,105.86	1,082.56	+23.30	1,004.81	2.15%	10.06%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,995,578	6,950,820	0.64%
	Mn USD	57,186	56,820	
Turnover	Mn BDT	26,727	28,971	-7.75%
	Mn USD	218	237	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	6,682	5,794	15.32%
	Mn USD	55	47	
Volume	Mn Shares	899	869	3.41%

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
ILFLS	0.9	0.6	+47.5%	193	6.6	NM	NM
PREMIERLEA	0.8	0.6	+47.4%	112	6.4	NM	NM
FASFIN	0.9	0.6	+41.9%	131	4.0	NM	NM
PLFSL	0.9	0.6	+40.3%	248	6.5	NM	NM
GSPFINANCE	2.8	2.0	+40.0%	440	2.3	NM	NM
ALARABANK	17.9	13.0	+37.7%	20,615	123.2	47.0x	0.9x
BIFC	2.2	1.7	+29.4%	221	0.3	NM	NM
FAREASTFIN	0.9	0.7	+28.4%	141	3.6	NM	NM
UTTARAFIN	12.8	10.0	+28.0%	1,683	9.6	NM	0.2x
PRIMEFIN	1.9	1.5	+26.7%	519	0.6	NM	0.3x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
DBH1STMF	5.1	6.5	-21.5%	612	69.2	NM	0.6x
ASIAPACINS	36.9	40.8	-9.6%	1,563	69.6	24.3x	1.5x
SONARBAINS	28.0	30.9	-9.4%	1,177	21.3	56.0x	1.4x
RUPALILIFE	85.3	92.8	-8.1%	2,560	250.0	NM	NM
RAHIMTEXT	230.4	249.7	-7.7%	2,180	59.6	88.3x	8.4x
TILIL	46.2	49.9	-7.4%	1,848	130.1	NM	NM
RELIANCE1	14.0	15.0	-6.7%	847	167.3	NM	1.3x
PRIMEINSUR	32.6	34.8	-6.3%	1,333	9.9	17.2x	1.4x
BNICL	52.2	55.7	-6.3%	2,310	116.9	11.3x	1.7x
MEGHNAINS	28.7	30.6	-6.2%	1,148	72.8	20.9x	2.0x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BRACBANK	75.5	74.0	+2.0%	150,315	840.5	9.6x	1.5x
ISLAMIBANK	52.7	43.4	+21.4%	84,847	795.4	NM	1.2x
ASIATICLAB	64.5	57.5	+12.2%	7,894	784.1	17.4x	1.2x
CITYBANK	26.2	26.0	+0.8%	39,856	676.8	3.0x	0.7x
DOMINAGE	33.6	28.6	+17.5%	3,447	647.4	NM	2.0x
SIMTEX	22.6	21.9	+3.2%	1,799	582.8	20.7x	1.0x
PRAGATILIF	229.9	222.4	+3.4%	7,482	568.6	NM	NM
SQRUPHARMA	219.8	218.9	+0.4%	194,842	498.3	7.5x	1.4x
BSC	112.9	111.8	+1.0%	17,221	481.7	5.8x	1.0x
CRYSTALINS	80.0	85.0	-5.9%	3,520	452.7	24.6x	2.9x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ISLAMIBANK	52.7	+60.7%	84,847	NM	1.2x
BRACBANK	75.5	+19.7%	150,315	9.6x	1.5x
POWERGRID	31.6	+18.4%	28,876	23.1x	0.2x
CONFIDCEM	58.1	+18.1%	5,011	4.8x	0.6x
RENATA	446.0	+13.8%	51,155	20.2x	1.4x
BSRMSTEEL	71.6	+13.5%	26,918	5.0x	0.8x
BARKAPOWER	7.6	+13.4%	1,790	7.1x	0.3x
BXPHARMA	114.8	+12.4%	51,214	8.0x	1.0x
WALTONHIL	421.2	+11.8%	140,353	12.6x	1.2x
PRIMEBANK	32.0	+11.5%	37,139	4.3x	0.8x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,575.2	1,517.8	1,367.20	+3.79%	+15.21%
NBFI	911.7	890.6	860.23	+2.37%	+5.98%
Mutual Fund	492.2	476.1	478.27	+3.40%	+2.92%
General Insurance	3,115.9	3,241.8	2,879.11	-3.89%	+8.22%
Life Insurance	1,896.1	1,934.2	1,691.42	-1.97%	+12.10%
Telecommunication	4,583.0	4,650.8	4,431.51	-1.46%	+3.42%
Pharmaceutical	2,982.7	2,954.4	2,764.29	+0.96%	+7.90%
Fuel & Power	1,045.7	1,043.3	996.11	+0.23%	+4.98%
Cement	1,910.0	1,857.4	1,739.18	+2.83%	+9.82%
Services & Real Estate	939.5	929.3	949.82	+1.10%	-1.08%
Engineering	2,460.2	2,328.5	2,290.78	+5.66%	+7.40%
Food & Allied	13,619.1	13,542.8	12,942.72	+0.56%	+5.23%
IT	1,721.3	1,729.1	1,703.25	-0.45%	+1.06%
Textile	1,044.2	1,032.0	1,060.76	+1.18%	-1.56%
Paper & Printing	4,428.5	4,344.1	4,485.61	+1.94%	-1.27%
Tannery	1,874.6	1,845.1	1,806.05	+1.60%	+3.80%
Jute	11,453.2	11,412.2	11,805.57	+0.36%	-2.98%
Ceramics	387.3	380.1	370.10	+1.89%	+4.66%
Miscellaneous	3,945.6	3,917.7	3,881.56	+0.71%	+1.65%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	1,296.9	597.6	+117.04%	+20.07%	10.5x	0.8x
NBFI	139.3	96.1	+44.90%	+2.16%	NM	0.9x
Mutual Fund	127.7	73.6	+73.55%	+1.98%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	569.1	983.5	-42.13%	+8.81%	14.7x	1.3x
Life Insurance	368.7	442.9	-16.76%	+5.70%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	166.6	111.9	+48.86%	+2.58%	13.0x	3.8x
Pharmaceutical	959.2	795.6	+20.57%	+14.84%	11.8x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	339.6	397.7	-14.62%	+5.25%	9.4x	0.6x
Cement	122.7	58.5	+109.97%	+1.90%	22.5x	2.0x
Services & Real Estate	147.8	146.3	+1.03%	+2.29%	17.1x	0.4x
Engineering	519.1	421.6	+23.13%	+8.03%	15.6x	0.8x
Food & Allied	413.1	293.8	+40.61%	+6.39%	19.9x	3.7x
IT	167.0	227.8	-26.69%	+2.58%	25.5x	1.4x
Textile	610.7	440.9	+38.50%	+9.45%	NM	0.7x
Paper & Printing	120.9	166.6	-27.42%	+1.87%	NM	1.2x
Tannery	51.3	48.5	+5.84%	+0.79%	NM	1.3x
Jute	16.4	29.6	-44.76%	+0.25%	NM	NM
Ceramics	39.6	39.9	-0.61%	+0.61%	NM	1.1x
Miscellaneous	287.4	208.4	+37.92%	+4.45%	91.1x	1.7x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
RUNNERAUTO	32.3	-12.0%	3,667	21.1x	0.5x
IFADAUTOS	20.2	-6.5%	5,419	NM	0.6x
ESQUIRENIT	19.3	-4.9%	2,603	NM	0.3x
BBSCABLES	14.5	-4.6%	3,070	NM	0.6x
UCB	10.0	-3.8%	15,504	NM	0.4x
GPHISPAT	15.6	-2.5%	7,549	82.1x	0.3x
MJLBD	88.9	-1.8%	28,159	10.4x	1.7x
EGEN	19.6	-1.0%	1,470	27.6x	0.8x
GHAIL	10.5	-0.9%	2,266	NM	0.9x
UNIQUEHRL	38.4	+0.5%	11,305	6.5x	0.4x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Bangladesh to sign first-ever EPA with Japan on Friday

- Bangladesh is stepping into a new phase of trade diplomacy as it signs its first Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan on Friday, a deal meant to preserve duty-free market access after the country's graduation from the least developed country club later this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-sign-first-ever-epa-japan-tomorrow-4098446>

LC opening for imports edges up in July-December

- Imports posted only a modest recovery in H1FY26 as businesses remained cautious amid political uncertainty, weak demand and lingering stress in the banking sector, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Opening of LCs rose by 2.96% to USD 35.83 Bn, compared with USD 34.8 Bn in H1FY25. Analysts said the current rise in imports mainly reflects a normalisation from that low base rather than a broad-based revival. Many manufacturers are operating below capacity as domestic demand stays weak and access to working capital remains constrained.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/290165/lc-opening-for-imports-edges-up-in-july-december>

BB buys USD 171 Mn, total purchases hit USD 4.32 Bn in FY2025-26

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) purchased an additional USD 171 Mn from 16 commercial banks on Wednesday as part of ongoing efforts to stabilise the country's foreign exchange market.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-buys-171m-total-purchases-hit-432b-in-fy2025-26>

Bangladesh must cut logistics costs, close policy gaps to stay trade-competitive: AmCham

- Bangladesh risks losing its trade competitiveness unless it urgently reduces high logistics costs, closes policy implementation gaps, and accelerates private-sector-led infrastructure development, experts warned at a focus group discussion organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-must-cut-logistics-costs-close-policy-gaps-stay-trade-competitive-amcham-1352186>

BD stands to lose in EU, US mkts amid India tariff deals

- Bangladesh is destined to face break-neck competition both in US and EU markets with India emerging as a major competitor with double advantages of Washington-proposed tariff cutback and trade deal with the 27-nation European bloc.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bd-stands-to-lose-in-eu-us-mkts-amid-india-tariff-deals-4097896>

External debt almost doubles in just over three years

- Bangladesh's external debt has nearly doubled in just over three years, driven by a surge in emergency budget financing in the post-Covid period and a sharp devaluation of the local currency that inflated the value of dollar-denominated obligations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/external-debt-almost-doubles-just-over-three-years-4098436>

Ctg port grinds to a halt as workers strike over NCT lease

- Bangladesh's main port in Chattogram has been at a complete standstill for 28 hours, due to an indefinite workers' strike over lease out of a key terminal to UAE-based DP World.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-grinds-halt-workers-strike-over-nct-lease-4097896>

Gold climbs back near USD 5,100

- Gold prices bounced back to hover near USD 5,100 on Wednesday, underpinned by safe-haven demand as renewed US-Iran geopolitical tensions added to bullion's appeal a day after it posted its best day in more than 17 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-climbs-back-near-5100-4098361>

RMG | No decision as finance ministry meets stakeholders on duty-free yarn imports

- The finance ministry held a meeting with textile millers and knitwear makers to resolve the stalemate regarding the removal of the duty-free benefit on yarn imports. After the meeting, BTMA President said the finance ministry avoided taking a decision by seeking 10 more working days, which means millers may need to consult the new government.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-decision-finance-ministry-meets-stakeholders-duty-free-yarn-imports-4097581>

Oil extends gains

- Oil prices extended gains on Wednesday after the US shot down an Iranian drone and armed Iranian boats approached a US-flagged vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, rekindling fears of an escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-extends-gains-4098351>

Interim govt to leave funds for new pay scale

- The interim administration will keep budgetary provisions for implementing the new pay scale for public employees, even though the task itself will fall onto the next elected government, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/interim-govt-leave-funds-new-pay-scale-4098426>

TELECOM | BTRC drops plan to cut SIM limit to five

- Bangladesh's telecom regulator has withdrawn a proposal to reduce the maximum number of SIM cards per national identity (NID) from 10 to five following opposition from two mobile operators, reigniting debate over regulatory neutrality and the competitive consequences of policy interventions in the telecom sector. Had the five-SIM limit been enforced, consumer behaviour would likely have shifted towards retaining primary connections while discarding secondary SIMs, consolidating active subscribers in favour of the dominant operator.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-drops-plan-to-cut-sim-limit-to-five-1770228951>

TOBACCO | Tobacco costs Bangladesh more than twice it earns, health official says

- Bangladesh earns about BDT 400 Bn a year in revenue from the tobacco sector, but the wider costs linked to tobacco use amount to around BDT 870 Bn annually, a senior health official has said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/health/tobacco-costs-bangladesh-more-than-twice-it-earns-health-official-says>

FUEL & POWER | Power rate cut at state firms to save BDT 1.19 Bn a year

- The government will save around BDT 1.19 Bn annually in electricity purchases thanks to a reduction in tariff rates by 10 to 21 paisa per kilowatt for three public-sector plants.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/power-rate-cut-state-firms-save-tk-119cr-year-4098431>

FUEL & POWER | Purchase Committee approves power purchase proposals from three power plants

- The government on Tuesday approved power purchase proposals from three major combined cycle power plants at re-determined levelised tariffs, aiming to ensure grid stability while optimising electricity generation costs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/purchase-committee-approves-power-purchase-proposals-from-three-power-plants>

FUEL & POWER | LPG: Cylinder gas shortage unlikely to ease soon

- The shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), widely used as a cooking fuel, is unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Although initiatives were taken to boost supply ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, traders have failed to import LPG in line with their commitments. Instead, imports have declined by 21,000 tonnes within a month.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/q2la3dd8kn>

BANK | Govt unwilling to avoid exposure of more unpalatable statistics

- Worried about the possible erosion of public confidence in the banking sector and market reactions, the Financial Institutions Division (FID) insists on not doing the asset-quality review (AQR) of state-owned banks (SoBs) now. The review was proposed under the Financial Sector Support Project II (FSSP II), a USD 400 Mn scheme to be funded by the World Bank (WB) and implemented by the Bangladesh Bank. However, upon the FID's insistence, the World Bank has agreed to revise the review requirement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-unwilling-to-avoid-exposure-of-more-unpalatable-statistics-1770228482>

Exports hold steady in January

- The country's merchandise exports held nearly steady in January, with shipments totalling USD 4.41 Bn, down 0.50 percent year-on-year, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data. A slow recovery in the global supply chain and cautious order placement by international clothing retailers ahead of the general election weighed on growth. Senior vice-president of BGMEA told that it is a normal practice by the international retailers and brands usually before the election. BKMEA president said that exports are expected to pick up strongly from June this year as retailers and brands begin placing orders after February.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/exports-hold-steady-january-4096971>

WB, ADB confirm USD 300 Mn funding for job creation, skill development

- World Bank confirmed USD 150.75 Mn in additional financing for informal sector employment generation, while the ADB confirmed USD 150 Mn to modernise technical and vocational training. The World Bank also signed a USD 0.75 Mn grant deal at the event.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/wb-adb-confirmed-300m-funding-for-job-creation-skill-development-1770056119>

BB buys USD 4.15 Bn so far in FY26

- BB bought USD 218.50 Mn from 16 commercial banks at a cut-off rate of BDT 122.30 per US dollar, which increased total foreign exchange purchases in the ongoing FY to USD 4.152 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-buys-415b-so-far-fy26-4096951>

Govt orders expeditious part takeover of KAFCO's foreign stakes

- The government has asked for expediting the takeover process of a portion of foreign stakes in Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (KAFCO). According to officials concerned, a shareholder from Denmark had expressed interest in handover of 8.0% of its shares to GoB. After getting the asset-valuation report, the government will decide whether to buy the stake or not. He added that the government instructed KAFCO to offload at least 5.0% shares on the stock market as the company is making profit and will lure investments.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-orders-expeditious-part-takeover-of-kafcos-foreign-stakes-1770055944>

Gold price may hit USD 6,300 an ounce by year-end

- JP Morgan said late on Sunday it expects demand from central banks and investors to drive gold prices to USD 6,300 per ounce by year-end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gold-price-may-hit-6300-ounce-year-end-4096916>

Trump cuts India tariffs, says Modi will stop buying Russian oil

- US President Donald Trump announced a trade deal with India on Monday, adding that he was cutting tariffs on Indian goods to 18%. He had previously levied 25% reciprocal tariffs, plus an additional 25% for New Delhi's purchases of Moscow's oil.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/news/trump-cuts-india-tariffs-says-modi-will-stop-buying-russian-oil-4097101>

TEXTILE | Apparel leaders push for cash incentive changes to aid spinners

- Leaders of the apparel and textile sector have proposed shifting incentives to the yarn pricing stage at the point of sale, rather than the current export-linked mechanism, to ensure direct benefits for spinners and stabilise the supply chain for garment exporters.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/apparel-leaders-push-for-cash-incentive-changes-to-aid-spinners-1770050426>

RMG | Yarn import restriction to risk buyers and employment: BGMEA

- Any kind of import restriction or severe tariff measure on yarn will create a supply constraint, resulting in the loss of buyers and risks to employment, said the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/yarn-import-restriction-risk-buyers-and-employment-bgmear-4096811>

BANK | Govt's net bank borrowing jumps nearly fivefold

- The interim government's net borrowing from the banking system rose almost fivefold in the first seven months of the current FY 2025-26, as spending raced ahead of sluggish revenue collection.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govts-net-bank-borrowing-jumps-nearly-fivefold-4098451>

FUEL & POWER | BERC raises LPG prices; 12kg cylinder now BDT 1,356

- Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) today announced an upward adjustment in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), setting the cost of a 12 kg cylinder at BDT 1,356, up from BDT 1,306.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/berc-raises-lpg-prices-12kg-cylinder-now-tk-1356-4096781>

FUEL & POWER | Light engineering fails to emerge as export frontier

- After agriculture and readymade garments, light engineering should have been Bangladesh's next export frontier, but that transition has yet to take place, said Md Abdur Rahim Khan, additional secretary at the commerce ministry. Hosna Ferdous Sumi, an official at the World Bank, said the domestic market is valued at USD 8.0 Bn, offering significant opportunities, but product quality remains the biggest challenge in both local and export markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/light-engineering-fails-emerge-export-frontier-4096946>

TELECOM | BTRC seeks to ease spectrum concerns as GP secures 700 MHz allocation

- Bangladesh's telecom regulator has taken a fresh step to address growing concerns over regulatory imbalance in the allocation of 700 MHz spectrum to Grameenphone (GP), as it invited rival operators Robi Axiata and Banglalink to a discussion on Tuesday to review broader low-band spectrum policy. Robi and Banglalink have repeatedly urged BTRC to release all available low-band spectrum, including the EGSM band, through a coordinated auction process.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-seeks-to-ease-spectrum-concerns-as-gp-secures-700-mhz-allocation-1770056054>

Bangladesh set to sign a trade deal with US on Feb 9

- Bangladesh and the United States are set to open a new chapter in bilateral commercial relations with the signing of a trade agreement on February 9. The commerce secretary said Bangladesh currently maintains a reciprocal tariff of 20%, similar to many other countries. He added that there is an indication that it may come down somewhat, with the exact rate to be decided by February 9.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-set-to-sign-a-trade-deal-with-us-on-feb-9>

Dhaka calls for early FTA talks with EU to attract more investment

- Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus called for an early start to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the European Union, stressing the need for safeguarding Bangladesh's trade preferences in its largest export market once the current duty-free access expires in the coming years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dhaka-calls-early-ftha-talks-eu-attract-more-investment-1349506>

Large taxpayers: Tobacco drives VAT growth amid dull economic trends

- Despite a slowdown in the broader economy, value-added tax collection from large companies, particularly in tobacco and beverages, recorded strong growth in H1FY26. By contrast, VAT from sectors such as banking, mobile phone operators, certain construction materials and consumer goods remained modest, while revenue from the cement sector fell by nearly 20%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/large-taxpayers-tobacco-drives-vat-growth-amid-dull-economic-trends-1349921>

Remittance inflow hits USD 3.17 Bn in January, third-highest on record

- Bangladesh received USD 3.17 Bn in remittances in January 2026, marking the third-highest monthly inflow on record and a 45.41% increase compared with the same month a year earlier.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/top-news/remittance-inflow-hits-317bn-january-third-highest-record-1349646>

How Bangladesh economy stands to gain as dollar hits four-year low

- The weakening dollar, which hit a four-year low last week against major global currencies amid rising tensions between the US and Europe over Greenland, is expected to help Bangladesh contain inflation and ease its debt servicing burden, giving the central bank more flexibility in monetary policy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-bangladesh-economy-stands-gain-dollar-hits-four-year-low-1349141>

35.33% of govt's operating expenditure goes to interest payments in Q1

- In 3MFY26, 35.33% –of the government's operating expenditure was spent on servicing debt interest. Notably, interest payments also account for the largest allocation within the operating budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/3533-govts-operating-expenditure-goes-interest-payments-q1-1349936>

Private sector credit growth hits record low

- Private sector credit growth fell to a record low in December 2025 due to political uncertainty and an economic slowdown, signalling stagnant investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/private-sector-credit-growth-hits-record-low-4096216>

Revenue board bifurcation loses way in legal labyrinth

- Much-hyped bifurcation of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is unlikely to complete during the tenure of the interim government as the major reform gets into legal and procedural labyrinth. The separation process has already taken a heavy toll on the country's revenue administration and earnings.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/revenue-board-bifurcation-loses-way-in-legal-labyrinth>

BANK | T-bill yields climb after new PD guidelines

- The yields on T-bills rose on Sunday following the implementation of new primary dealer (PD) guidelines aimed at injecting greater dynamism into both the primary and secondary markets. Under the new PD guidelines, only PD banks are allowed to participate in auctions by submitting bids, which has helped push up T-bill yields

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/t-bill-yields-climb-after-new-pd-guidelines-1769970568>

BANK | Banks asked to collect data on farm loans of up to BDT 10,000

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked banks to provide information on agricultural loans of up to BDT 10,000 so that the data can be kept ready "for the next government".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-asked-collect-data-farm-loans-tk-10000-4095901>

BANK | Credit card growth: Built on supermarkets, serving a meagre bracket

- Bangladesh's credit card infrastructure appears to be thriving. Monthly domestic transactions crossed BDT 35 Bn last November, a 48% increase from early 2023, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/credit-card-growth-built-supermarkets-serving-meagre-bracket-4095991>

MFS | Daily MFS transaction cap of BDT 10,000 likely during election week

- The transaction limit for mobile financial services (MFS) may be reduced ahead of the upcoming national parliamentary election. As a result, customers of mobile banking platforms such as bKash, Rocket, and Nagad may be allowed to transact up to BDT 10,000 per day, with a maximum per-transaction limit of BDT 1,000.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/daily-mfs-transaction-cap-tk-10000-likely-during-election-week-4095671>

MFS | Monthly transactions of Nagad hit record BDT 403 Bn

- Nagad has set a record by processing BDT 403.01 Bn in transactions in the just-concluded January this year, marking the highest monthly volume in its history. The mobile financial service provider continues its strong growth trajectory as it recorded a total transaction volume of BDT 3.80 Tn in 2025, which was BDT 3.30 Tn in 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/monthly-transactions-of-nagad-hit-record-tk-403b-1769964669>

TEXTILE | RMG exports to US fall in value and volume amid higher tariffs

- Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) exports to United States declined both in value and volume year on year in November 2025 as higher tariffs dampened demand and forced changes in work-order patterns. According to Office of Textiles and Apparel (Otexa), exports declined by 14.51% to USD 526.51 Mn in November 2025, shipping 184.79 Mn square metres of garments, down 10.91% YoY.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-exports-to-us-fall-in-value-and-volume-amid-higher-tariffs-1769970189>

TEXTILE | Textile, spinning firms witness Q2 slowdown

- Bangladesh's leading textile and spinning companies saw business momentum weaken sharply in the October-December quarter, as subdued global demand, cautious buying by international apparel brands and persistent cost pressures took a toll on revenues and profits. Industry insiders said the production costs have risen by around 30% over the past two years due to higher gas tariffs, wage hikes and irregular gas supply, eroding the competitiveness of local mills.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/textile-spinning-firms-witness-q2-slowdown-1769964473>

TOBACCO | Tobacco sales banned near health facilities

- The health ministry has directed all field-level health administrations to ensure that tobacco products are not sold within a 100-metre radius of health facilities. It also asked them to keep all hospitals, clinics, health centres and adjoining areas tobacco-free in line with the anti-tobacco law, which was recently made stricter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/tobacco-sales-banned-near-health-facilities-4096026>

PHARMA | Pharmaceutical sector shines amid political and economic uncertainty

- Despite political and economic uncertainty, most listed pharmaceutical companies reported strong revenue and profit growth in the October-December quarter and the first half of the fiscal year. Analysts said higher sales, lower costs, easing finance expenses, efficient working capital management, stable demand, steady exchange rates, and operational efficiency drove the improved performance. Renata PLC, one of the country's leading drug manufacturers, reported 25% year-on-year profit growth in the first half of the fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pharmaceutical-sector-shines-amid-political-and-economic-uncertainty-1349851>

IMF projects Bangladesh's GDP to rebound to 4.7% in FY 2026

- The International Monetary Fund on Friday said Bangladesh's gross domestic product is expected to rebound to 4.7% in the FY 2026, following a recent economic slowdown.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-projects-bangladesh-gdp-rebound-47-fiscal-2026-1348331>

Bangladesh to seek 12-year trade grace for post-graduation era

- Bangladesh is set to seek a binding 12-year transition period to safeguard its export-oriented economy from post-LDC-graduation trade challenges in a high-stakes strategy to be placed at the upcoming WTO ministerial meet.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-to-seek-12-year-trade-grace-for-post-graduation-era>

BB's exchange rate framework incomplete: IMF

- Although the authorities say the foreign exchange rate is now fully market-determined, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has described the system as "incomplete".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bbs-exchange-rate-framework-incomplete-imf-4095156>

Bangladesh Bank bought nearly USD 4 Bn in FY26 so far

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has purchased a total of USD 3.93 Bn from the interbank foreign exchange market so far in FY 2025–26, reflecting continued intervention to manage dollar liquidity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-bank-bought-nearly-4-billion-fy26-so-far-4093591>

Online VAT refunds pose new hurdles for businesses, with BDT 15 Bn in claims stuck

- Bangladesh's recent shift from a manual to an online value-added tax refund system, promoted by the National Board of Revenue as a move towards transparency and efficiency, has instead created new complications for businesses, leaving around BDT 15.0 Bn in refunds effectively stuck.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/online-vat-refunds-pose-new-hurdles-businesses-tk1500cr-claims-stuck-1348371>

Gold sees sharpest one-day fall, down BDT 15,746 per bhori

- Gold prices in the Bangladesh market fell sharply again, with the price of 22-carat gold dropping by BDT 15,746 per bhori (11.664 grams) in a single day, the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) announced (31 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/gold-sees-sharpest-one-day-fall-down-tk15746-bhori-1348566>

Impose tax on gifts, bequests: taskforce

- A national tax reform taskforce has recommended introducing a 1% levy on gifts and bequests as part of efforts to modernise Bangladesh's tax system and raise the tax-to-GDP ratio.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/impose-tax-gifts-bequests-taskforce-4093976>

BB autonomy deadlocked as interim govt nears end

- With around two weeks left in office, the interim government has yet to pass two important banking reform laws that the central bank says are crucial for strengthening its oversight of the financial sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-autonomy-deadlocked-interim-govt-nears-end-4095151>

Foreign debt servicing rises to USD7.09 Bn

- Foreign debt servicing by the government and its guaranteed loans rose 17% to USD 7.09 Bn at the end of June in the last fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-debt-servicing-rises-709b-4095171>

Dollar gains

- The US dollar gained on Friday after former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh was selected to be the next Fed chair, and as the US currency recovered from a sharp selloff earlier in the week that analysts say was overdone in the short-term.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-gains-4095181>

BANK | Lenders stare at BDT 6.46 Bn loss after bank merger

- At least five financial institutions risk losing assets following the recent bank merger, as shares held as collateral for loans they disbursed have been valued at zero.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/lenders-stare-at-tk-646b-loss-after-bank-merger>

BANK | Charge rational interest rate on loans

- Government's finance division wants fixing rational interest on loans from microfinance banks as it finds the rates irrationally high in case of microcredit, taken by small borrowers, sources have said. MoF specifically wants that the microfinance banks charge simple interest from borrowers instead of compound interest.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/charge-rational-interest-rate-on-loans>

BANK | Merged Islamic banks' clients getting maximum 9.5% profit

- Depositors in the five Islamic banks merged into the newly formed Sammilito Islami Bank will receive profits at market rates of up to 9.5%, says the regulator.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/merged-islamic-banks-clients-getting-maximum-95pc-profit>

FUEL & POWER | Govt cuts fuel prices by BDT 2 per litre for February

- The government has announced a BDT 2 per litre reduction in the prices of diesel, octane, petrol, and kerosene for February 2026, aiming to provide fuel at a relatively affordable price to consumers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-cuts-fuel-prices-by-tk-2-per-litre-for-february>

PLASTIC | Tech, recycling drive plastic sector growth

- The country's plastic industry, long overshadowed by garments, is steadily expanding as manufacturers adopt new technologies, increase recycling, and diversify exports beyond traditional markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tech-recycling-drive-plastic-sector-growth-4095206>

TELECOM | Plan to reduce SIM limits deferred until after polls

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has halted its plan to reduce the number of mobile SIM cards registered under a single national identity (NID) card from 10 to five ahead of the upcoming national election.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/plan-reduce-sim-limits-deferred-until-after-polls-4095161>

Important News: Stocks

RAKCERAMIC | RAK Ceramics posts BDT 395.9 Mn loss in 2025 despite 10.56% revenue growth

- RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited has reported a loss of BDT 395.9 Mn for 2025, even as its revenue grew by 10.56%, mainly due to higher manufacturing costs, prolonged disruption in gas supply until June, and rising finance expenses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rak-ceramics-posts-tk3959cr-loss-2025-despite-1056-revenue-growth-1352261>

PUBALIBANK & BRACBANK | Pubali Bank, bKash launch automated cash service

- Pubali Bank PLC has signed a partnership agreement with the country's leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider, bKash Limited, to launch 24/7 automated cash management services for bKash agents, distributors and partners across the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pubali-bank-bkash-launch-automated-cash-service-4098401>

EXCHANGE | Stabilisation fund for stocks to stay in bank, be managed risk-free

- The Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) will now have to keep all its funds in a bank account and manage them in a risk-free manner, according to a draft of the Capital Market Stabilisation Fund Ordinance published on the Financial Institutions Division website.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/stabilisation-fund-stocks-stay-bank-be-managed-risk-free-4096956>

GP | GP declares 105pc final cash dividend for 2025

- Grameenphone (GP), the country's largest mobile phone operator, has recommended a 105 per cent final cash dividend (total 215 per cent) for the year ended December 31, 2025.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/gp-declares-105pc-final-cash-dividend-for-2025>

UPGDCL | United Power lifts profit on deep cost cuts amid revenue slump

- United Power experienced a marginal 2 per cent rise in profit to BDT 2.98 Bn in the second quarter of FY26, despite a more than 22 per cent decline in revenue, as the cost of sales shrank by 40 per cent.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/united-power-lifts-profit-on-deep-cost-cuts-amid-revenue-slump>

MIDLANDBNK | Midland Bank receives Mastercard membership licence

- Midland Bank PLC has received a Mastercard-affiliated membership licence, enabling the bank to issue Mastercard credit, debit and prepaid cards.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/midland-bank-receives-mastercard-membership-licence-1350426>

ALARABANK | CBS upgrade underway at Al-Arafah Islami Bank

- The Core Banking System (CBS) upgrade program of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC is currently underway with the objective of enhancing technological capabilities, building a modern banking infrastructure, and ensuring safer, faster, and uninterrupted banking services for customers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/cbs-upgrade-underway-at-al-arafah-islami-bank>

WALTONHIL | Walton inaugurates ACC Kappa Compressor

- Walton, Bangladesh's first and only compressor manufacturer, has launched the production of the renowned European ACC brand's Kappa Compressor. ACC brand was established in 1968.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/walton-inaugurates-acc-kappa-compressor>

SINGERBD | Singer's losses widen, but investors bet on new plant payoff

- The company explained that the NAV declined sharply due to a significant increase in both short-term and long-term debts taken for new manufacturing facilities. Short-term borrowings escalated alongside a hike in interest rates. The company elaborated that this loss was primarily driven by a 124.7% increase in financing costs, mainly due to higher interest rates, financing stretched working capital, lower demand actualisation compared to expectations, and exchange losses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/singers-losses-widen-but-investors-bet-on-new-plant-payoff-1770050831>

ONEBANKPLC | Ziaul Islam made DMD of ONE Bank

- Kazi Ziaul Islam, chief country representative of Mashreq Bank, Bangladesh, has been appointed as deputy managing director and head of financial services and public sector, respectively, of ONE Bank PLC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/ziaul-islam-made-dmd-one-bank-4096896>

SAPORTL | Export slowdown hits Summit Alliance Port as container handling drops in H1

- Summit Alliance Port Limited, one of the country's leading inland container terminal and logistics operators, reported a sharp decline in revenue and profit in H1'FY26. Summit Alliance Port attributed the weaker performance largely to the downturn in its subsidiary Container Transportation Services Limited (CTSL), which experienced lower net profit due to reduced cargo volumes, a fall in freight rates and the absence of dividend income from subsidiaries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/export-slowdown-hits-summit-alliance-port-container-handling-drops-h1-1350781>

SINGERBD | Singer Bangladesh losses swell, skips dividend for 2025

- Singer Bangladesh reported a significantly wider loss for the year ended December 31, 2025, driven mainly by higher financing costs amid elevated interest rates, exchange losses, and stretched working capital.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/singer-bangladesh-losses-swell-skips-dividend-2025-4095756>

NCCBANK | NCC Bank launches automated risk management system

- NCC Bank PLC has launched an advanced automated environmental and social risk management (ESRM) system, reinforcing its commitment to eco-friendly financing and sustainable banking.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/ncc-bank-launches-automated-risk-management-system-4096131>

SOUTHEASTB | Southeast Bank completes automation, centralisation of credit functions

- Southeast Bank PLC recently hosted an event at its head office in Dhaka to mark the successful completion of the full centralisation and automation of its documentation and limit-loading functions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/southeast-bank-completes-automation-centralisation-credit-functions-4095261>

SINGERBD | Singer Bangladesh steps up long-term investment drive

- Singer Bangladesh Limited has undertaken a series of major investments in recent years to strengthen its manufacturing base, expand exports and enhance consumer experience, as part of a long-term growth strategy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/press-releases/news/singer-bangladesh-steps-long-term-investment-drive-4094791>

BRACBANK | bKash receives BDT 200 Bn in remittances from expatriates in 2025

- Expatriates sent BDT 200 Bn in remittances to the bKash accounts of their loved ones in Bangladesh in 2025. A total of 4.1 Mn bKash accounts received the funds, nearly double the number recorded a year earlier, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bkash-receives-tk-20000cr-remittances-expatriates-2025-4093911>

SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank strikes remittance deal with Nagad

- Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC recently signed a remittance disbursement agreement with Nagad Limited to ensure that remittances sent by expatriates reach their beneficiaries quickly and seamlessly.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/shahjalal-islami-bank-strikes-remittance-deal-nagad-4092881>

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