

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.58%) lost -37.10 points and closed the week at 6,336.25 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.88%) gained 18.84 points and stood at 2,157.06 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.37%) lost -5.11 points and stood at 1,382.22 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.10%) gained 1.26 points and closed at 1,201.45 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +1.44%, +3.02%, +1.33%, -0.11%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 74.4 billion (USD 676 million)

**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 14.9 billion (Δ% Week: -12.2%)

**Market P/E:** 18.2x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a positive note (+1.16%) on Sunday but turned negative on Monday (-0.34%) and remained negative for Tuesday (-0.47%) and Wednesday (-0.36%). Lastly ended the week on a negative note (-0.55%) on Thursday.

### Sectoral Performance

• Most of the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. General Insurance experienced the highest loss of -3.66% followed by Mutual Fund (-3.46%), NBFI (-3.24%), Life Insurance (-1.75%), and Bank (+0.71%).

• All the non-financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Engineering experienced the highest loss of 5.31% followed by Fuel & Power (-2.09%), Pharmaceutical (-1.36%), Telecommunication (-0.12%), and Food & Allied (-0.11%).

### Macroeconomic arena

• Foreign currency transactions thru cards soar amid cash USD shortage. GIZ to provide EUR 22.17 Mn for tech cooperation. BANK | BB fixes banks' ind. directors' remuneration, age limit. POWER | Discard rental, inefficient power plants, repeal indemnity act. Move to shrink credit flow to private sector may hurt economy. Businesses face new challenge of rising interest expenses. TRADE | Exports to South Korea tripled in 5 years on duty benefits. RMG | Garment exports to rebound in May as global economy on the mend. ENERGY | Bidding for offshore energy search shortly. TRADE | Bogura records 40% drop in exports last year. BANK | Banks failing in provisioning their ballooning bad loans. Import curbs pay off – country's external position finally turns green. Financial account deficit narrows slightly. Govt brings changes to export cash incentive regime. TEXTILE | BD geotextile market surpasses BDT 7.0 Bn. TELECOM | Summit plans to use Bangladesh as transit point to supply bandwidth to northeast India. BANK | Banks' non-performing loans soar to BDT 1.46 Tn. Govt to make rare reduction of own fund in ADP.

• Signs of reverse migration to villages as economic struggle persists. PHARMACEUTICALS | Pharma sector shows signs of recovery. BANK | Janata leads, BASIC lags in written-off loan recovery. TRADE | Mirsharai EZ is not getting enough workers. Here's why. TRADE | Airfreight rate nearly doubles in a month. Govt hopeful about 3rd tranche of IMF loan. No tax exemption on foreign loan interest post-Dec: NBR. Central govt debt up for forex market volatility. Yields on bills and bonds are rising. What does it mean for credit flow to private sector?. 34.5 per 1,000 poorest Bangladeshis show signs of disability: Survey. BANK | Mattress money buildup drops by BDT 370 Bn. COMMODITIES | Govt reduces duty, VAT on four essentials, including rice, edible oil. BANK | Banks find liquidity support thru AR as boon. BANK | Deposit rates increase drastically. Some banks offer up to 12%. RMG | Bangladesh's apparel export to USA dips over 25% in 2023. FOOTWEAR | RFL Footwear looks to raise non-leather exports to Africa

### Stock Market arena

UNIONCAP, PRIMEBANK | Union Capital to merge with Prime Bank. DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu setting up 100% export-oriented jumbo bag making plant. AAMRANET | Aamra Networks cleared for raising BDT 930 Mn through right shares. NRBBANK | General investors get 255 IPO shares of NRB Bank. EXCHANGE | BSEC greenlights Craftsman Footwear's public listing. EXCHANGE | City Touch app creator Brain Station 23 to go public. KAY&QUE | Kay & Que's profit climbs 9 times on IT business. GREENDELTA | Green Delta's full-year profit drops on high expenses. TITASGAS | Titas plugs leaks, earns USD 3 Mn amid slumping carbon market. EXCHANGE | DSE moves to end manual data filing hassles for listed firms. BERGERPBL | Berger signs issue management deal with IDLC Investments. EXCHANGE | I-Mart Engineering eyes expansion with BDT 200 Mn stock market raise. EXCHANGE | After acquisition, LR Global eyes revival of Padma Printers. BATBC | British American Tobacco declares dividend, lowest in a decade. EXCHANGE | Retail investors' holdings in stocks fall by half in 12 years as appetite dwindles.

February 15, 2024 (Week: February 11, 2024 – February 15, 2024)

**Dhaka Stock Exchange**

**DSEX ended in Red (-0.58%) in the week**

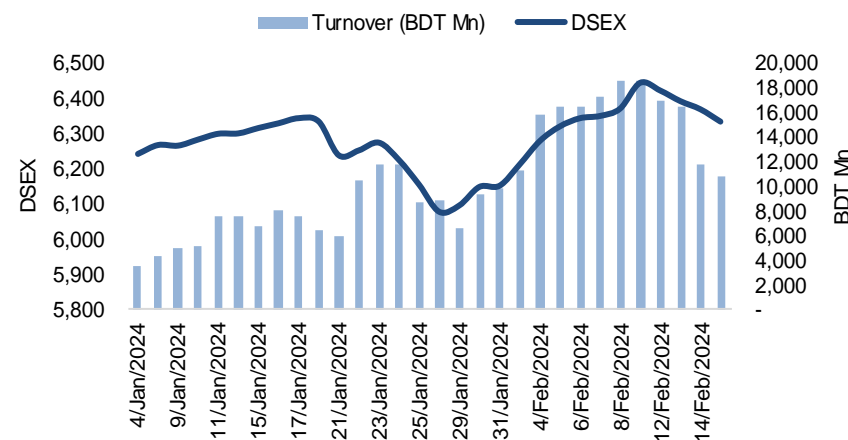
Table 1: Index

| Index | Closing* | Opening* | Δ(Pts) | 28-Dec-2023 | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD |
|-------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|
| DSEX  | 6,336.25 | 6,373.35 | -37.10 | 6,246.50    | -0.58%  | +1.44% |
| DS30  | 2,157.06 | 2,138.22 | +18.84 | 2,093.83    | +0.88%  | +3.02% |
| DSES  | 1,382.22 | 1,387.32 | -5.11  | 1,364.13    | -0.37%  | +1.33% |
| CDSET | 1,201.45 | 1,200.19 | +1.26  | 1,202.82    | +0.10%  | -0.11% |

Table 2: Market Statistics

|                        |            | This Week | Last Week | % Change |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| M cap                  | M n BDT    | 7,664,669 | 7,725,266 | -0.8%    |
|                        | M n USD    | 69,679    | 70,230    |          |
| Turnover               | M n BDT    | 74,404    | 84,752    | -12.2%   |
|                        | M n USD    | 676       | 770       |          |
| Average Daily Turnover | M n BDT    | 14,881    | 16,950    | -12.2%   |
|                        | M n USD    | 135       | 154       |          |
| Volume                 | M n Shares | 2,362     | 2,781     | -15.1%   |

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    |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| SICL         | 49.3   | 28.1  | +59.5% | 1,972  | 9.4        | NM    | NM    |
| MITHUNKNIT   | 24.8   | 18.2  | +36.3% | 806    | 136.5      | NM    | 7.8x  |
| LOVELLO      | 47.2   | 36.8  | +28.3% | 4,012  | 1,094.7    | 43.7x | 3.8x  |
| BESTHLDNG    | 40.9   | 31.9  | +28.2% | 43,323 | 2,947.5    | 32.9x | 0.8x  |
| MONNOFABR    | 23.9   | 19.8  | +20.7% | 2,749  | 345.2      | NM    | 0.9x  |
| KBPPWBIL     | 2316   | 197.3 | +17.4% | 22,715 | 566.5      | NM    | 19.5x |
| SBACBANK     | 117    | 10.0  | +17.0% | 9,643  | 2417       | 19.8x | 0.9x  |
| SAFKOSPINN   | 19.2   | 16.6  | +15.7% | 576    | 810        | NM    | 2.3x  |
| AFTABAUTO    | 61.9   | 54.0  | +14.6% | 6,533  | 1,191.9    | NM    | 12x   |
| EBL1STMf     | 6.4    | 5.6   | +14.3% | 926    | 9.8        | NM    | 0.7x  |

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ%     | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE    | PB   |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|------|
| WMSHIPYARD   | 13.9   | 16.5  | -15.8% | 3,269  | 566.4      | NM    | 0.7x |
| RINGSHINE    | 6.6    | 7.6   | -13.2% | 3,273  | 51.9       | NM    | NM   |
| SHYAMPSUG    | 220.4  | 252.6 | -12.7% | 1,102  | 67.2       | NM    | NM   |
| YPL          | 26.7   | 30.5  | -12.5% | 1,968  | 300.2      | NM    | 5.0x |
| BBS          | 16.9   | 19.3  | -12.4% | 2,754  | 73.5       | NM    | 10x  |
| OAL          | 18.6   | 212   | -12.3% | 3,153  | 863.5      | NM    | 17x  |
| NURANI       | 6.0    | 6.8   | -11.8% | 736    | 8.8        | NM    | 0.6x |
| ETL          | 16.2   | 18.3  | -11.5% | 2,964  | 567.7      | 33.8x | 1.3x |
| VAMLRBBF     | 6.3    | 7.1   | -11.3% | 1,000  | 10.9       | NM    | 0.7x |
| RUPALIBANK   | 37.1   | 418   | -11.2% | 17,240 | 326.7      | 27.6x | 10x  |

**Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares**

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ%     | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE    | PB    |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| BESTHLDNG    | 40.9   | 31.9  | +28.2% | 43,323 | 2,947.5    | 32.9x | 0.8x  |
| ORIONINFU    | 667.0  | 661.3 | +0.9%  | 13,580 | 2,767.1    | NM    | 45.9x |
| ORIONPHARM   | 84.7   | 81.8  | +3.5%  | 19,820 | 2,267.1    | 18.8x | 0.9x  |
| FORTUNE      | 60.2   | 60.0  | +0.3%  | 10,274 | 1,967.8    | 57.7x | 3.9x  |
| IFIC         | 13.4   | 14.0  | -4.3%  | 24,529 | 1,848.1    | 8.0x  | 0.7x  |
| FUWANGCER    | 26.0   | 23.4  | +11.1% | 3,543  | 1,688.1    | 96.3x | 2.2x  |
| MALEKSPIN    | 36.8   | 38.9  | -5.4%  | 7,124  | 1,485.7    | 16.4x | 0.7x  |
| CENTRALPHL   | 26.9   | 29.6  | -9.1%  | 3,223  | 1,426.0    | NM    | 4.9x  |
| BSC          | 129.1  | 122.5 | +5.4%  | 19,692 | 1,421.6    | 9.0x  | 14x   |
| ITC          | 56.9   | 53.8  | +5.8%  | 7,317  | 1,330.1    | 20.4x | 2.9x  |

**Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

| Company Name | Close*  | YTD %Δ | Mcap** | PE    | PB    |
|--------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| BRACBANK     | 43.0    | +20.1% | 69,180 | 9.2x  | 11x   |
| ADNTEL       | 137.9   | +17.8% | 8,915  | NM    | 4.5x  |
| HEIDELBCEM   | 259.9   | +8.5%  | 14,685 | 28.6x | 3.8x  |
| BERGERPBL    | 1,900.4 | +7.1%  | 88,137 | 27.1x | 6.6x  |
| SHAHJABANK   | 19.5    | +6.6%  | 21,703 | 5.9x  | 0.9x  |
| UNIQUEHRL    | 60.3    | +6.3%  | 17,752 | 10.5x | 0.7x  |
| LHBL         | 73.5    | +6.1%  | 85,361 | 13.4x | 4.0x  |
| RECKITTBEN   | 5,035.8 | +5.8%  | 23,794 | 31.5x | 26.6x |
| PRIMEBANK    | 22.2    | +5.7%  | 25,137 | 5.4x  | 0.7x  |
| UNILEVERCL   | 2,120.8 | +5.0%  | 40,877 | 41.3x | 19.7x |

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

| Sector Name            | Week Close* | Week Open* | Year Open* | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD  |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Bank                   | 1,497.8     | 1,487.2    | 1,455.32   | +0.71%  | +2.92%  |
| NBFI                   | 1,521.0     | 1,571.9    | 1,902.52   | -3.24%  | -20.06% |
| Mutual Fund            | 793.9       | 822.4      | 876.90     | -3.46%  | -9.46%  |
| General Insurance      | 3,671.2     | 3,810.8    | 3,489.09   | -3.66%  | +5.22%  |
| Life Insurance         | 2,379.7     | 2,422.0    | 2,637.78   | -1.75%  | -9.78%  |
| Telecommunication      | 4,870.8     | 4,876.7    | 4,945.60   | -0.12%  | -1.51%  |
| Pharmaceutical         | 3,653.1     | 3,703.3    | 3,732.58   | -1.36%  | -2.13%  |
| Fuel & Power           | 1,452.6     | 1,483.6    | 1,691.80   | -2.09%  | -14.14% |
| Cement                 | 2,653.0     | 2,653.5    | 2,523.22   | -0.02%  | +5.14%  |
| Services & Real Estate | 1,853.0     | 1,728.5    | 1,518.57   | +7.20%  | +22.02% |
| Engineering            | 3,667.8     | 3,873.3    | 4,520.40   | -5.31%  | -18.86% |
| Food & Allied          | 21,329.7    | 21,352.9   | 21,180.76  | -0.11%  | +0.70%  |
| IT                     | 3,277.5     | 3,243.4    | 2,894.80   | +1.05%  | +13.22% |
| Textile                | 1,460.2     | 1,522.5    | 1,658.23   | -4.09%  | -11.94% |
| Paper & Printing       | 9,942.5     | 10,477.5   | 10,093.63  | -5.11%  | -1.50%  |
| Tannery                | 2,917.2     | 2,918.7    | 3,103.94   | -0.05%  | -6.02%  |
| Jute                   | 17,973.8    | 19,007.1   | 17,683.51  | -5.44%  | +1.64%  |
| Ceramics               | 641.3       | 665.9      | 694.56     | -3.69%  | -7.67%  |
| Miscellaneous          | 4,643.5     | 4,598.7    | 4,265.32   | +0.97%  | +8.87%  |

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

| Sector Name            | Daily average this Week | Daily average last Week | % Change | % of Total Turnover | PE    | PB   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|------|
| Bank                   | 1,796.6                 | 1,274.0                 | +41.02%  | +12.43%             | 12.9x | 0.7x |
| NBFI                   | 514.4                   | 511.5                   | +0.57%   | +3.56%              | NM    | NM   |
| Mutual Fund            | 201.7                   | 300.8                   | -32.94%  | +1.40%              | NM    | 0.7x |
| General Insurance      | 703.2                   | 1,429.9                 | -50.82%  | +4.86%              | 19.6x | 17x  |
| Life Insurance         | 204.0                   | 432.3                   | -52.82%  | +1.41%              | NM    | NM   |
| Telecommunication      | 33.0                    | 34.9                    | -5.48%   | +0.23%              | 14.9x | 3.9x |
| Pharmaceutical         | 2,555.0                 | 2,551.6                 | +0.14%   | +17.67%             | 19.4x | 2.2x |
| Fuel & Power           | 531.2                   | 544.0                   | -2.35%   | +3.67%              | 26.0x | 0.9x |
| Cement                 | 234.3                   | 231.6                   | +1.16%   | +1.62%              | 16.8x | 2.7x |
| Services & Real Estate | 998.9                   | 499.9                   | +99.83%  | +6.91%              | 26.3x | 0.8x |
| Engineering            | 1,493.1                 | 2,588.1                 | -42.31%  | +10.33%             | 19.6x | 14x  |
| Food & Allied          | 981.0                   | 1,218.0                 | -19.46%  | +6.79%              | 20.6x | 6.6x |
| IT                     | 879.5                   | 811.0                   | +8.45%   | +6.08%              | 35.5x | 2.8x |
| Textile                | 1,327.4                 | 1,832.6                 | -27.57%  | +9.18%              | NM    | 10x  |
| Paper & Printing       | 390.6                   | 758.4                   | -48.50%  | +2.70%              | 56.2x | 19x  |
| Tannery                | 425.1                   | 396.9                   | +7.12%   | +2.94%              | 43.5x | 3.0x |
| Jute                   | 68.7                    | 45.6                    | +50.51%  | +0.48%              | NM    | NM   |
| Ceramics               | 509.6                   | 449.4                   | +13.39%  | +3.53%              | 43.0x | 17x  |
| Miscellaneous          | 610.2                   | 703.2                   | -13.22%  | +4.22%              | 41.1x | 2.0x |

**Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

| Company Name | Close*  | YTD %Δ | Mcap**  | PE    | PB   |
|--------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|------|
| IPDC         | 34.8    | -39.6% | 12,914  | 28.2x | 2.0x |
| ACI          | 181.6   | -30.2% | 13,839  | NM    | 18x  |
| TITASGAS     | 29.0    | -29.1% | 28,687  | NM    | 0.4x |
| DOREENPWR    | 43.8    | -28.2% | 7,933   | 8.1x  | 0.8x |
| ESQUIRENIT   | 25.3    | -26.7% | 3,413   | 97.3x | 0.4x |
| IPDC         | 34.8    | -25.9% | 12,914  | 28.2x | 2.0x |
| LANKABAFIN   | 23.9    | -24.8% | 12,878  | 32.3x | 13x  |
| ACI          | 181.6   | -24.3% | 13,839  | NM    | 18x  |
| LINDEBD      | 1,305.0 | -24.0% | 19,860  | 317x  | 3.4x |
| UPGDCL       | 177.5   | -23.9% | 102,896 | 15.0x | 3.3x |

\*BDT

\*\*BDT Mn

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Foreign currency transactions thru cards soar amid cash USD shortage

- Foreign currency transactions through cards hit an all-time high in December 2023. Bankers say the surge happened as travellers are now opting for card-based USD due to a shortage of cash greenbacks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-currency-transactions-thru-cards-soar-amid-cash-dollar-shortage-793146>

### GIZ to provide EUR 22.17 Mn for tech cooperation

- The areas are Higher Education and Leadership Development for Sustainable Textiles (HELD), Skills Development for Sustainable Energy Solutions (Skills4SE), Skills for self-monitoring and Compliance with Clean and Fair Production in the textile industry in Bangladesh (SCAIP), Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S), and Energising Development (EnDev).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/giz-provide-eu2217m-tech-cooperation-3543841>

### BANK | BB fixes banks' ind. directors' remuneration, age limit

- The independent directors of the banks in Bangladesh must be aged between 45 and 75 with a monthly remuneration of BDT 50,000.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-fixes-banks-ind-directors-remuneration-age-limit-1707932726>

### POWER | Discard rental, inefficient power plants, repeal indemnity act

- Those quick-rental and inefficient power plants that are not yet on existing 'phase-out' list should be discarded by 2025 and the indemnity act be repealed to heal Bangladesh's energy woes.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/discard-rental-inefficient-power-plants-repeal-indemnity-act>

### Move to shrink credit flow to private sector may hurt economy

- The central bank's move to squeeze credit flow to the private sector will adversely impact production and job creation in the country in the coming months as the demand for working capital is already rising amid the heavy devaluation of the local currency against the USD.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/move-shrink-credit-flow-private-sector-may-hurt-economy-3543036>

### Female-headed households rise to a decade high

- In 2022, some 17.4% of households were led by women, up from 16% the year before and 15% in 2020. It was 11.6% in 2013.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/female-headed-households-rise-decade-high-3542981>

### Businesses face new challenge of rising interest expenses

- At a time when the corporate world in Bangladesh is already struggling with various challenges such as exchange rate fluctuations, import constraints, a slowdown in consumption, and energy shortages, a new hurdle has appeared – an alarming rise in interest expenses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-face-new-challenge-rising-interest-expenses-792502>

### TRADE | Exports to South Korea tripled in 5 years on duty benefits

- Annual exports to Korea had hovered between USD 200 Mn and USD 300 Mn in the five years up till fiscal year (FY) 2016-17. Exports started rising the following year, crossing the half-a-Bn-USD mark to reach a decade-high in FY22.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/exports-south-korea-tripled-5-years-duty-benefits-3543071>

### RMG | Garment exports to rebound in May as global economy on the mend

- Garment export from Bangladesh may witness a strong rebound from May as suppliers are receiving a lot of inquiries from international buyers as the global economy recovers from the severe fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/garment-exports-rebound-may-global-economy-the-mend-3543061>

### ENERGY | Bidding for offshore energy search shortly

- Search for offshore hydrocarbons starts shortly as Bangladesh is all set to launch international bidding, after five years, now that fuel shortages haunt households and industries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bidding-for-offshore-energy-search-shortly>

**TRADE | Bogura records 40% drop in exports last year**

- Bogura experienced a decline of over 40% in export earnings in 2023 compared to the previous year. Export levels were notably high in 2021, 2020 and 2019 as well. Traders attributed this downturn to shrinking export items, the USD crisis, and a global economic slowdown.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bogura-records-40-drop-exports-last-year-792050>

**BANK | Banks failing in provisioning their ballooning bad loans**

- Banking sector's annualised provision shortfall surged around 75% in the immediate-past calendar year due mainly to burgeoning classified loans and forex-market volatility.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-failing-in-provisioning-their-ballooning-bad-loans>

**Import curbs pay off – country's external position finally turns green**

- The country's external position improved significantly in the first six months of the current fiscal year as the current account balance turned to surplus from deficit, narrowing down trade gap with trading partner countries, thanks to controlled imports giving the central bank a considerable relief.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-curbs-pay-countrys-external-position-finally-turns-green-791898>

**Financial account deficit narrows slightly**

- The deficit in the financial account narrowed slightly in July-December of the current financial year, highlighting an easing of stress facing Bangladesh. The shortfall, almost a rare in the country's history, stood at USD 5.39 Bn in the first half of 2023-34, showing an improvement from USD 5.48 Bn registered in the first five months of the year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-account-deficit-narrows-slightly-3542316>

**Labour exports tumble to 9-month low in Jan**

- Bangladesh's labour exports tumbled to a nine-month low in January, driven by decreases in employment opportunities in Malaysia and Oman.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/labour-exports-tumble-9-month-low-jan-791434>

**Govt brings changes to export cash incentive regime**

- The new cash incentive on export receipts became effective from February 1 instead of the first day of January as announced earlier while some markets and products have been brought back under the facility following pleas from the business community.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-brings-changes-export-cash-incentive-regime-3542306>

**TEXTILE | BD geotextile market surpasses BDT 7.0 Bn**

- The country's geotextile market has crossed BDT 7.0 Bn mark in recent years, ushering in possibility for massive extension of its export.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-geotextile-mkt-surpasses-tk-70b-1707760471>

**TELECOM | Summit plans to use Bangladesh as transit point to supply bandwidth to northeast India**

- The telecom regulator has sought consent from the government after Summit Communications Ltd applied to use Bangladesh as a transit point to supply bandwidth to the northeastern states of India.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-plans-use-bangladesh-transit-point-supply-bandwidth-northeast-india-3542251>

**BANK | Banks' non-performing loans soar to BDT 1.46 Tn**

- Classified loans in the banking sector showed an annual bulge by around 21% to BDT 1.46 Tn in 2023, until a downturn towards the yearend under regulatory push.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-non-performing-loans-soar-to-tk-146t>

**Govt to make rare reduction of own fund in ADP**

- This may lead to a decrease in the government's own fund by 4.43% or BDT 75 Bn. The finance ministry has already sent a revision of the original ADP allocation for the current fiscal year to the planning ministry. The original ADP is likely to be reduced by 6.84%, or BDT 180 Bn, to BDT 2,450 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-make-rare-reduction-own-fund-adp-3541521>

**Signs of reverse migration to villages as economic struggle persists**

- Some 10.9 out of every 1,000 people returned to the countryside in 2022, up 84.7% year-on-year, according to Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics published recently by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/signs-reverse-migration-villages-economic-struggle-persists-3541576>

**BANK | Bangladesh Bank tightens bank director appointment rules**

- The Bangladesh Bank today tightened the rules of appointing bank directors to ensure good governance in the banking sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-bank-tightens-bank-director-appointment-rules-3541411>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Pharma sector shows signs of recovery**

- The shipment rose around 10% year-on-year to USD 117.38 Mn in July-January of the current financial year, data from the Export Promotion Bureau showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pharma-sector-shows-signs-recovery-3541526>

**JUTE | BD plans strategies to offset losses from anti-dumping duty**

- It also plans to take necessary steps against a possible imposition of countervailing duty (CVD) -- also known as anti-subsidy duty -- despite the existing ADD on these products in the Indian market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-plans-strategies-to-offset-losses-from-anti-dumping-duty-1707676592>

**BANK | Janata leads, BASIC lags in written-off loan recovery**

- Six state-owned banks aimed to recover BDT 17.9 Bn from their written-off loans in the preceding year. However, their collective efforts fell short, managing to reclaim only BDT 2.54 Bn, representing a mere 14% of the set targets.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/janata-leads-basic-lags-written-loan-recovery-790946>

**Govt hopeful about 3rd tranche of IMF loan**

- Bangladesh is likely to receive the third tranche of the International Monetary Fund's USD 4.7 Bn loan as the country has met almost all conditions

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-hopeful-about-3rd-tranche-imf-loan-3539546>

**TRADE | Mirsharai EZ is not getting enough workers. Here's why**

- A lapse in planning – the absence of proper accommodation and transport facilities for the large workforce it will employ – has resulted in reluctance among workers from distant areas to work here.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/mirsharai-ez-not-getting-enough-workers-heres-why-791366>

**TRADE | Airfreight rate nearly doubles in a month**

- Airfreight costs for sending exports from Bangladesh to its main export destinations have nearly doubled in a month amid mounting pressure for having to bypass conflicts-ridden Red Sea area.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/airfreight-rate-nearly-doubles-in-a-month-1707672565>

**No tax exemption on foreign loan interest post-Dec: NBR**

- The exemption of tax on interest payments for foreign loans taken by businesses will not be extended beyond December, National Board of Revenue Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem has said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/no-tax-exemption-offshore-loan-interest-after-dec-nbr-789598>

**Central govt debt up for forex market volatility**

- Foreign currency-denominated loans by the government surged by more than 40.5% to September 2023 over the same period a year earlier.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/central-govt-debt-up-for-forex-market-volatility>

**Execution of fast-track projects trails tracks**

- Delays in fund utilisation from their budgetary allocations prompted the authorities to forgo some BDT 50 Bn from their total BDT 277.95 Bn funds earmarked for 10 megaprojects, mostly fast-track ones, implementing agencies say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/execution-of-fast-track-projects-trails-tracks-1707499902>



### **Yields on bills and bonds are rising. What does it mean for credit flow to private sector?**

- In December last year, the yield of 364-day treasury bills (T-bills) stood at 11.28%, the highest in 11 years, against the backdrop of government's borrowing from the financial market, witnessing tightening liquidity supply.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/yields-bills-and-bonds-are-rising-what-does-it-mean-credit-flow-private-sector-3540796>

### **Income inequality, inflation increase poorest households**

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)'s latest survey has shown the poorest households in rural areas increased to 29.4% in 2022 from 29.29% in 2021.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/income-inequality-inflation-increase-poorest-households-1707413775>

### **34.5 per 1,000 poorest Bangladeshis show signs of disability: Survey**

- Among the poorest communities, a whopping 34.5 per thousand individuals bear signs of disability, according to the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2022, as the rate exceeds the national average of 25.5 per thousand.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/345-per-1000-poorest-bangladeshis-show-signs-of-disability-survey-1707500078>

### **BANK | Mattress money buildup drops by BDT 370 Bn**

- According to officials and bankers, baited by rate rise amid tightfisted monetary stance, deposits worth over BDT 370 Bn, returned into bank vaults in the July-December 2023 period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/mattress-money-buildup-drops-by-tk-370-billion-1707414037>

### **COMMODITIES | Govt reduces duty, VAT on four essentials, including rice, edible oil**

- The government has slashed the duty and value-added tax (VAT) on the import of rice, edible oil, sugar and dates to stabilise the market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/markets/govt-reduces-duty-and-vat-four-essentials-including-rice-and-edible-oil-789382>

### **TRADE | Ctg port's box handling in January rises 18%**

- Chittagong port's container-handling capacity increased by 18% this January than last year's, a good sign of keeping constant pace with the handling in the last few months.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/ctg-ports-box-handling-in-january-rises-18pc>

### **BANK | Banks find liquidity support thru AR as boon**

- A new liquidity-feeding derivative called AR or assured repo comes from the recently-introduced special bonds as a godsend for the banks in persistent liquidity crunch

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-find-liquidity-support-thru-ar-as-boon>

### **BANK | Deposit rates increase drastically. Some banks offer up to 12%**

- Deposit rates increased up to 12% as some banks facing liquidity crunch are offering aggressive rates, industry insiders have said. Policy rate hikes of up to 8% have also led to an increase in interest rates across the money market, for deposits, loans, and bonds alike.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/deposit-rates-increase-drastically-some-banks-offer-12-789798>

### **RMG | Bangladesh's apparel export to USA dips over 25% in 2023**

- Bangladesh's apparel shipments to the United States, its single largest export destination in 2023, declined 25% year on year to USD 7.29 Bn due to high inflation caused by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladeshs-apparel-export-usa-dips-over-25-2023-790774>

### **FOOTWEAR | RFL Footwear looks to raise non-leather exports to Africa**

- RFL Footwear, a concern of PRAN-RFL Group, wants to expand its non-leather footwear business in African markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rfl-footwear-looks-raise-non-leather-exports-africa-3540911>

## Important News: Capital Market

### UNIONCAP, PRIMEBANK | Union Capital to merge with Prime Bank

- The ailing non-bank financial institution Union Capital is going to merge with the Prime Bank as the central bank has approved the bid.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/union-capital-merge-prime-bank-3543446>

### DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu setting up 100% export-oriented jumbo bag making plant

- Deshbandhu Group, a leading conglomerate, is setting up a 100% export-oriented jumbo bag manufacturing plant with an investment of BDT 3 Bn. The Group says jumbo bags in its plant will be produced using fully European-standard automated machinery. A factory is being built in Narsingdi's Palash upazila.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/deshbandhu-setting-100-export-oriented-jumbo-bag-making-plant-792570>

### AAMRANET | Aamra Networks cleared for raising BDT 930 Mn through right shares

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has granted permission to Aamra Networks Limited, a publicly listed internet service provider, to raise BDT 930 Mn by issuing 31 Mn rights shares on the stock exchanges. This capital will be utilised for loan repayment, network system upgradation and network coverage expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aamra-networks-cleared-raising-tk93cr-through-right-shares-793126>

### NRBBANK | General investors get 255 IPO shares of NRB Bank

- General investors were allotted 255 shares in the initial public offering (IPO) of NRB Bank, while non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) received 209 shares against a BDT 10,000 deposit.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/general-investors-get-255-ipo-shares-nrb-bank-793142>

### EXCHANGE | BSEC greenlights Craftsman Footwear's public listing

- Craftsman Footwear and Accessories Ltd, a shoe manufacturer focused on exports, received approval from the stock market regulator to raise BDT 50 Mn through a qualified investor offer (QIO) within the SME platform of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-greenlights-craftsman-footwears-public-listing-793138>

### EXCHANGE | City Touch app creator Brain Station 23 to go public

- Brain Station 23 PLC, a software company that developed the mobile digital banking platform — City Touch, has submitted an application to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to raise BDT 50 Mn via a qualified investor offer (QIO) within the SME platform of the stock exchanges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/city-touch-app-creator-brain-station-23-go-public-792466>

### KAY&QUE | Kay & Que's profit climbs 9 times on IT business

- Buoyed by the merger with an IT firm, Kay & Que (Bangladesh) has witnessed 981% year-on-year growth in its net profit in the October to December quarter of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/kay-ques-profit-climbs-9-times-it-business-792458>

### NRBBANK | NRB Bank's IPO gets big response

- NRB Bank has received overwhelming interest with a subscription of 3.91 times the allocated amount from resident Bangladeshi investors, amounting to BDT 2.74 Bn against the designated BDT 0.7 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/nrb-banks-ipo-gets-big-response-3543066>

### LANKABAFIN | LankaBangla Finance to issue BDT 3 Bn bond

- LankaBangla Finance PLC today said its board has approved the issuance of a zero-coupon bond to raise BDT 3 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lankabangla-finance-issue-tk-300-crore-bond-3542731>

### GREENDELTA | Green Delta's full-year profit drops on high expenses

- Green Delta Insurance Ltd, a leading insurer in Bangladesh, reported that its profit declined 16% year-on-year in 2023 and recommended a 25% cash dividend.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/green-deltas-full-year-profit-drops-high-expenses-3542706>

### APEXFOOT | Apex chairman to buy 11,000 company shares

- Apex Footwear Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi has announced to buy 11,000 shares of the company in the secondary market of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-chairman-buy-11000-company-shares-791866>

**EXCHANGE | DSE launches disclosure submission system**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today launched a smart data and document submission system in order to ease and speed up the process for listed companies to submit disclosures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-launches-disclosure-submission-system-3542191>

**TITASGAS | Titas plugs leaks, earns USD 3 Mn amid slumping carbon market**

- When major carbon emission reduction projects in Bangladesh struggled to trade greenhouse gas (GHG) credits, the state-owned natural gas distributor Titas Gas earned over USD 3 Mn in four years till 2023 for saving gas from leaky residential and commercial risers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/titas-plugs-leaks-earns-3m-amid-slumping-carbon-market>

**EXCHANGE | DSE moves to end manual data filing hassles for listed firms**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is all set to introduce an automated data input system for the listed firms from Monday in a bid to lower hassles of manual filing process and curb misleading information.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-moves-end-manual-data-filing-hassles-listed-firms-791334>

**FUWANGCER | Fu-Wang Ceramic's profit drops 28%**

- Fu-Wang Ceramic Industries Ltd, a ceramic manufacturer in Bangladesh, registered a 28% year-on-year decline in profit in the second quarter of the current financial year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fu-wang-ceramics-profit-drops-28-3541326>

**BERGERPBL | Berger signs issue management deal with IDLC Investments**

- Berger intends to raise BDT 3.75 Bn by issuing 2,728,111 ordinary shares at an issue price of BDT 1,376 per share. Proceeds from the Rights issuance will be utilised for setting up the paint-maker's third factory at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/berger-signs-issue-management-deal-with-idlc-investments-1707418336?date=09-02-2024>

**EXCHANGE | After acquisition, LR Global eyes revival of Padma Printers**

- Padma Printers & Colour Ltd, established in 1968, has been acquired by LR Global Bangladesh, an asset management company, with investment of BDT 230 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/after-acquisition-lr-global-eyes-revival-padma-printers-790762>

**EXCHANGE | I-Mart Engineering eyes expansion with BDT 200 Mn stock market raise**

- Recognising the significant potential and growth prospects in Bangladesh's steel building sector, I-Mart Engineering Ltd, a developer of pre-engineered steel structures, plans to enhance its capacity by securing BDT 200 Mn from the stock market through a Qualified Investors Offer (QIO).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/i-mart-engineering-eyes-expansion-tk20cr-stock-market-raise-789734>

**WALTONHIL | Walton's sponsor director to offload 100,000 shares**

- SM Rezaul Alam, sponsor director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd, has declared the sale of 100,000 shares of the company in the secondary market. This move aims to augment free float shares per directives from the securities regulator.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/waltons-sponsor-director-offload-100000-shares-789630>

**BATBC | British American Tobacco declares dividend, lowest in a decade**

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited (BATBC) has declared a 100% cash dividend to its shareholders for the year 2023, marking the lowest dividend payout in over a decade.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/british-american-tobacco-declares-dividend-lowest-decade-789766>

**EXCHANGE | Retail investors' holdings in stocks fall by half in 12 years as appetite dwindles**

- In January 2011, general investors' combined shareholding was 37.86% of the total shares of the companies listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). It has now dropped to 20%, figures from the premier bourse of the country showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/retail-investors-holdings-stocks-fall-half-12-years-appetite-dwindles-3541101>



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