

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.28%) lost -17.56 points and closed the week at 6,249.29 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.60%) lost -12.54 points and stood at 2,094.58 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.06%) gained 0.78 points and stood at 1,365.44 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.17%) lost -2.00 points and closed at 1,204.38 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +0.68%, -4.59%, +0.49%, -0.83%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 29.3 billion (USD 266 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 5.9 billion (Δ% Week: -1.8%)

Market P/E: 19.4x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.16%) on Sunday and remained negative on Monday (-0.09%). But, turned positive on Tuesday (+0.16%) and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.02%). Lastly, the week ended on a negative note (-0.20%) on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

• Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Mutual Fund booked the highest gain of 2.54% followed by Bank (+0.26%), and NBFIL (+0.03%). General Insurance experienced the highest loss of 1.58% followed by Life Insurance (-0.40%).

• Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Pharmaceutical booked the highest gain of 0.12% followed by Food & Allied (+0.02%), and Telecommunication (+0.00%). Fuel & Power experienced the highest loss of 0.32% followed by Engineering (-0.21%).

Macroeconomic arena

• Exchange rate to float within 'crawling peg' corridor. Steep inflation may lose steam before long: BB. Central bank rolls out bancassurance guidelines. Debt burden gets heavier as Bangladesh runs low on capacity to repay. BDT depreciation expected to continue amid financial outflows. PHARMACEUTICAL | Drugmakers foresee medicine dearth for LC dilemmas. ADB cuts Bangladesh's GDP growth forecast to 6.2%. Overvalued BDT undercuts trade competitiveness. Bangladesh falls behind peers in wooing non-resident deposits. CEMENT | Cement makers slash output as political tension flares up. Household income doubles in 6 years, so does spending. Skilled labour migration from Bangladesh rises. Basic needs taking up majority of remittance spent.

• BD remittance inflow less though more workers sent. Remittance to Bangladesh to remain flat at USD 23 Bn in 2024: World Bank. July-Nov ADP spending lowest in 8 years. Bangladesh's foreign debts go ballooning. RMG | Another alert for Bangladesh RMG exports as shippers suspend operations on Suez Canal. BANK | Banks walk tightrope for larger liquidity crunch. HEALTHCARE | Heart patients suffer as importers halt stent supply after price cuts. Forex reserves go past USD 20 Bn mark after loans from IMF, ADB. IMF charts ways to discipline money market, boost revenue. How weaker taka inflates Bangladesh's foreign debt costs. Moody's keeps B1 rating for Bangladesh, says outlook stable. IMF sets Bangladesh's net reserve target at USD 19.27 Bn for 3rd instalment. NBR reduces tax on provident fund to 15%. No waiver needed for govt for 2nd IMF loan tranche. 50 tasks in 3 years to stabilise economy. Import rebound elusive, falls further amid fund crunch. External pressures will remain despite IMF loan payout. RMG | BKMEA appeals for product price adjustment in response to new minimum wage structure.

Stock Market arena

CROWNCEMENT | Crown Cement approves 20% cash dividend. GSPFINANCE | GSP Finance reports losses of BDT 667 Mn in Jan-Sept. FAREASTLIF | IDRA steps in as Fareast Islami Life Insurance falls behind on payout. INTRACO | Intraco starts supplying gas from Bhola to industries around Dhaka on Thursday. EXCHANGE | Asset managers squeezed by selling pressure of open-ended funds. AOPLC | Agro Organica's debut trading today. SINOBANGLA | Sinobangla to begin issuing rights shares on Jan 28. HAKKANIPUL | Hakkani Pulp & Paper to issue 16 Mn shares for working capital. NBL | SC orders status quo on National Bank AGM till 21 Jan. EXCHANGE | DSE looks into clients' account fraud by AVIVA Equity. LIBRAINFU | Libra Infusions allowed to pay 50% stock dividend. ITC | ITC AGM approves 10% cash dividend. EXCHANGE | Asset managers to lose licence for failing to manage funds: BSEC. GP | Grameenphone launches IoT devices. NITOLINS | Nitol Insurance chairman among 3 fined BDT 8 Mn for stock irregularities. ICB | ICB, at risk of negative equity, looks to govt support to keep running. SQRPHARMA | Square Pharmaceuticals declared 105% cash dividend. SQUARETEXT | Square Textiles approves 30% cash dividend. KDSALTD | KDS Accessories announces 10% cash dividend. BDLAMPS | Bangladesh Lamps declares 10% cash dividend.

December 21, 2023 (Week: December 17, 2023 – December 21, 2023)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended in Red (-0.28%) in the week

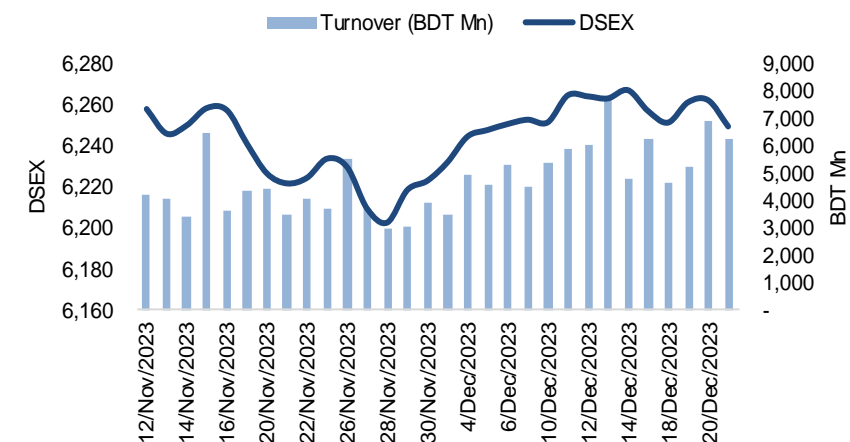
Table 1: Index

| Index | Closing* | Opening* | Δ(Pts) | 29-Dec-2022 | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD |
|-------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|---------|--------|
| DSEX | 6,249.29 | 6,266.85 | -17.56 | 6,206.81 | -0.28% | +0.68% |
| DS30 | 2,094.58 | 2,107.12 | -12.54 | 2,195.30 | -0.60% | -4.59% |
| DSES | 1,365.44 | 1,364.66 | +0.78 | 1,358.84 | +0.06% | +0.49% |
| CDSET | 1,204.38 | 1,206.38 | -2.00 | 1,214.42 | -0.17% | -0.83% |

Table 2: Market Statistics

| | | This Week | Last Week | % Change |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Mcap | Mn BDT | 7,737,061 | 7,745,789 | -0.1% |
| | Mn USD | 70,337 | 70,416 | |
| Turnover | Mn BDT | 29,279 | 29,818 | -1.8% |
| | Mn USD | 266 | 271 | |
| Average Daily Turnover | Mn BDT | 5,856 | 5,964 | -1.8% |
| | Mn USD | 53 | 54 | |
| Volume | Mn Shares | 1,148 | 992 | +15.7% |

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 |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| GLDNJMF | 117 | 9.0 | +30.0% | 1,170 | 144.1 | NM | 12x |
| 1STPRIMFMF | 28.2 | 23.1 | +22.1% | 564 | 450.4 | NM | 2.7x |
| ATCSLGF | 113 | 9.7 | +16.5% | 698 | 315.7 | NM | 1.1x |
| KOHINOOR | 468.3 | 402.1 | +16.5% | 15,782 | 257.4 | 45.8x | 15.5x |
| NCCBLMF1 | 8.1 | 7.0 | +15.7% | 879 | 29.9 | NM | 0.9x |
| ORIONINFU | 413.2 | 364.1 | +13.5% | 8,413 | 1,624.0 | NM | 27.7x |
| KAY&QUE | 243.3 | 217.8 | +11.7% | 1,668 | 165.8 | NM | 3.2x |
| ETL | 13.3 | 12.0 | +10.8% | 2,433 | 884.7 | 28.9x | 1.1x |
| RELANCE1 | 10.9 | 9.9 | +10.1% | 659 | 47.1 | NM | 1.0x |
| KBPPWBIL | 104.7 | 95.5 | +9.6% | 10,269 | 393.7 | NM | 8.8x |

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ% | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE | PB |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|------|
| SEAPEARL | 124.0 | 160.7 | -22.8% | 14,973 | 666.6 | 20.1x | 6.7x |
| EMERALDOIL | 77.2 | 93.9 | -17.8% | 4,610 | 319.9 | 39.0x | NM |
| DOMINAGE | 16.5 | 18.7 | -11.8% | 1,693 | 267.9 | NM | 1.0x |
| AFTABAUTO | 29.0 | 32.7 | -11.3% | 3,061 | 181.5 | NM | 0.6x |
| SKTRIMS | 30.6 | 34.1 | -10.3% | 2,592 | 339.3 | 27.1x | 1.9x |
| GQBALLPEN | 140.9 | 156.8 | -10.1% | 1,258 | 199.1 | NM | 1.2x |
| AZIZPIPES | 127.7 | 141.9 | -10.0% | 683 | 321.9 | NM | NM |
| DACCADYE | 13.8 | 15.3 | -9.8% | 1,203 | 151.9 | NM | 0.4x |
| YPL | 28.3 | 31.3 | -9.6% | 2,086 | 444.9 | NM | 5.3x |
| SIMTEX | 18.8 | 20.7 | -9.2% | 1,496 | 34.8 | 23.8x | 0.8x |

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

| Company Name | Close* | Open* | Δ% | Mcap** | Turnover** | PE | PB |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| ORIONINFU | 413.2 | 364.1 | +13.5% | 8,413 | 1,624.0 | NM | 27.7x |
| OAL | 18.9 | 19.0 | -0.5% | 3,204 | 1,582.9 | NM | 1.7x |
| PDL | 15.5 | 16.2 | -4.3% | 2,845 | 1,300.0 | NM | 1.1x |
| CENTRALPHL | 217 | 22.9 | -5.2% | 2,600 | 1,072.4 | NM | 3.9x |
| KPPL | 28.3 | 28.3 | - | 2,067 | 885.6 | NM | NM |
| ETL | 13.3 | 12.0 | +10.8% | 2,433 | 884.7 | 28.9x | 1.1x |
| WMSHIPYARD | 13.8 | 14.3 | -3.5% | 3,246 | 669.4 | NM | 0.7x |
| SEAPEARL | 124.0 | 160.7 | -22.8% | 14,973 | 666.6 | 20.1x | 6.7x |
| IBP | 18.7 | 19.2 | -2.6% | 2,173 | 536.6 | NM | 1.3x |
| BDTHAI | 212 | 19.6 | +8.2% | 2,709 | 536.1 | NM | 0.8x |

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

| Company Name | Close* | YTD %Δ | Mcap** | PE | PB |
|--------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| HEIDELBCEM | 237.2 | +32.4% | 13,403 | 26.1x | 3.5x |
| OLYMPIC | 152.9 | +23.3% | 30,571 | 18.5x | 2.9x |
| UNILEVERCL | 2,028.9 | +13.9% | 39,106 | 39.5x | 18.9x |
| PRIMEBANK | 211 | +9.9% | 23,891 | 5.1x | 0.7x |
| LHBL | 68.8 | +6.2% | 79,902 | 12.6x | 3.7x |
| EBL | 29.4 | +4.0% | 35,493 | 6.3x | 0.9x |
| BATASHOE | 980.0 | +2.9% | 13,406 | 24.0x | 3.6x |
| MTB | 15.5 | +2.1% | 15,238 | 7.1x | 0.7x |
| CROWNCEMNT | 75.9 | +2.0% | 11,271 | 11.2x | 1.4x |
| DUTCHBANGL | 59.1 | +1.5% | 44,203 | 8.0x | 1.0x |

Table 7: Sector Indices

| Sector Name | Week Close* | Week Open* | Year Open* | Δ% Week | Δ% YTD |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Bank | 1,451.6 | 1,447.8 | 1,427.09 | +0.26% | +1.72% |
| NBFI | 1,922.9 | 1,922.2 | 1,927.24 | +0.03% | -0.23% |
| Mutual Fund | 864.3 | 842.9 | 852.07 | +2.54% | +1.44% |
| General Insurance | 3,452.2 | 3,507.6 | 3,177.87 | -1.58% | +8.63% |
| Life Insurance | 2,601.9 | 2,612.4 | 2,492.91 | -0.40% | +4.37% |
| Telecommunication | 4,945.6 | 4,945.6 | 4,945.60 | - | -0.00% |
| Pharmaceutical | 3,740.9 | 3,736.5 | 3,754.47 | +0.12% | -0.36% |
| Fuel & Power | 1,690.4 | 1,695.8 | 1,694.29 | -0.32% | -0.23% |
| Cement | 2,509.0 | 2,519.5 | 2,319.67 | -0.42% | +8.16% |
| Services & Real Estate | 1,573.1 | 1,704.1 | 1,782.23 | -7.69% | -11.73% |
| Engineering | 4,516.2 | 4,525.7 | 4,503.40 | -0.21% | +0.28% |
| Food & Allied | 21,225.2 | 21,220.5 | 21,247.80 | +0.02% | -0.11% |
| IT | 2,870.1 | 2,876.3 | 3,004.33 | -0.21% | -4.47% |
| Textile | 1,665.1 | 1,674.5 | 1,621.87 | -0.56% | +2.67% |
| Paper & Printing | 10,123.3 | 10,122.4 | 10,388.08 | +0.01% | -2.55% |
| Tannery | 3,130.4 | 3,142.6 | 3,093.43 | -0.39% | +1.20% |
| Jute | 17,476.4 | 17,499.1 | 14,850.17 | -0.13% | +17.69% |
| Ceramics | 694.9 | 705.3 | 704.74 | -1.48% | -1.40% |
| Miscellaneous | 4,236.9 | 4,237.8 | 4,071.46 | -0.02% | +4.06% |

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

| Sector Name | Daily average this Week | Daily average last Week | % Change | % of Total Turnover | PE | PB |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------|-------|------|
| Bank | 136.4 | 82.3 | +65.69% | +2.48% | 12.5x | 0.7x |
| NBFI | 69.7 | 41.0 | +70.16% | +1.27% | NM | NM |
| Mutual Fund | 444.4 | 175.8 | +152.85% | +8.09% | NM | 0.8x |
| General Insurance | 348.9 | 530.7 | -34.25% | +6.35% | 18.7x | 1.6x |
| Life Insurance | 89.6 | 119.5 | -24.96% | +1.63% | NM | NM |
| Telecommunication | 0.7 | 0.6 | +22.15% | +0.01% | 16.0x | 4.1x |
| Pharmaceutical | 985.4 | 884.4 | +11.41% | +17.95% | 19.7x | 2.2x |
| Fuel & Power | 75.3 | 154.5 | -51.26% | +1.37% | 44.5x | 1.1x |
| Cement | 74.1 | 90.2 | -17.85% | +1.35% | 17.0x | 2.6x |
| Services & Real Estate | 188.2 | 198.8 | -5.33% | +3.43% | 20.4x | 0.8x |
| Engineering | 920.8 | 1,045.3 | -11.91% | +16.77% | 26.9x | 1.9x |
| Food & Allied | 393.9 | 434.3 | -9.30% | +7.17% | 19.7x | 6.9x |
| IT | 119.2 | 179.3 | -33.51% | +2.17% | 29.6x | 2.5x |
| Textile | 873.8 | 537.0 | +62.72% | +15.91% | NM | 1.2x |
| Paper & Printing | 238.8 | 268.4 | -11.06% | +4.35% | 58.9x | 1.9x |
| Tannery | 29.8 | 59.3 | -49.65% | +0.54% | 58.3x | 3.3x |
| Jute | 47.5 | 38.2 | +24.24% | +0.87% | NM | NM |
| Ceramics | 173.0 | 293.3 | -41.03% | +3.15% | 53.9x | 1.9x |
| Miscellaneous | 281.3 | 414.7 | -32.18% | +5.12% | 26.4x | 1.8x |

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

| Company Name | Close* | YTD %Δ | Mcap** | PE | PB |
|--------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|------|
| EGEN | 45.2 | -13.2% | 3,390 | 30.5x | 2.0x |
| GPHISPAT | 42.7 | -4.7% | 19,678 | 20.9x | 0.8x |
| UNIQUEHRL | 55.6 | -3.6% | 16,369 | 8.9x | 0.6x |
| ADNTEL | 112.7 | -1.2% | 7,286 | NM | 3.6x |
| ISLAMIBANK | 32.6 | -1.2% | 52,486 | 8.5x | 0.7x |
| IPDC | 57.6 | -0.1% | 21,375 | 46.7x | 3.2x |
| LANKABAFIN | 26.0 | -0.0% | 14,010 | 35.1x | 1.4x |
| ACI | 260.2 | - | 19,829 | NM | 2.3x |
| LINDEBD | 1,397.7 | - | 21,271 | 34.0x | 3.6x |
| UPGDCL | 233.7 | - | 135,475 | 19.6x | 4.1x |

*BDT

**BDT Mn

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Exchange rate to float within 'crawling peg' corridor

- Sources at the Bangladesh Bank have said the central bank has already started spadework on introduction of the system that will be based on a basket of currencies in accordance with suggestion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help manage foreign-exchange risks.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/exchange-rate-to-float-within-crawling-peg-corridor-1703093372>

Steep inflation may lose steam before long: BB

- Steep inflation may be losing steam in the near future following tight monetary- policy stance coupled with governmental fiscal austerity, the central bank hopes.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/steep-inflation-may-lose-steam-before-long-bb-1703093440>

Central bank rolls out bancassurance guidelines

- Banks in Bangladesh will have to maintain a net non-performing loan ratio of no more than 5% to get approval for bancassurance, according to related guidelines released by Bangladesh Bank today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/central-bank-rolls-out-bancassurance-guidelines-3499271>

Debt burden gets heavier as Bangladesh runs low on capacity to repay

- Bangladesh's debt service to revenue ratio is projected to cross the 100% mark for the first time owing to rising loans and lower tax and export receipts, highlighting the growing risk to the country's capacity to repay.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/debt-burden-gets-heavier-bangladesh-runs-low-capacity-repay-3499246>

Lack of gas, electricity connections delay production start at Cumilla Economic Zone: Meghna Group

- The Cumilla Economic Zone is unable to go to production due to lack of gas and electricity connections, Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) Chairman and Managing Director Mostafa Kamal said today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lack-gas-electricity-connections-delay-production-start-cumilla-economic-zone-meghna-group>

BDT depreciation expected to continue amid financial outflows

- The BDT is expected to depreciate further against the USD due to huge outflows, said the Bangladesh Bank in its quarterly released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/taka-depreciation-expected-continue-amid-financial-outflows-3499261>

NBFI | NBFIs can appoint multiple foreign directors from an entity: BB

- The Central Bank has given the opportunity to appoint multiple foreign directors from an entity to boost foreign investment in the Non-Bank Financial Institution (NBFIs) sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/nbfis-can-appoint-multiple-foreign-directors-entity-bb-761486>

PHARMACEUTICAL | Drugmakers foresee medicine dearth for LC dilemmas

- Production of medicines starts taking a knock as ongoing USD crisis disrupts raw-material import and stokes concerns over supply of some lifesaving drugs used for treating acidity, diabetes, and cancers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/drugmakers-foresee-medicine-dearth-for-lc-dilemmas>

ENGINEERING | Lower sales of agri-machinery, spare parts hurting light engineering sector

- The agricultural machinery and spare parts segment of the light engineering sector in Bangladesh has been suffering from significantly lower sales for the past one-and-a-half years, according to industry people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lower-sales-agri-machinery-spare-parts-hurting-light-engineering-sector-3499206>

Meghna set to get 4th economic zone, highest among business groups

- The Meghna Group expects a new investment of USD 3 Bn in the new economic zone, named Titas Economic Zone (TEZ).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/meghna-set-get-4th-economic-zone-highest-among-business-groups-760850>

ADB cuts Bangladesh's GDP growth forecast to 6.2%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised downward the growth forecast for Bangladesh's economy to 6.2% for the current fiscal year ending in June 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-cuts-bangladeshs-gdp-growth-forecast-62-3498486>

Insurance regulator unveils guidelines for bank-insurance partnerships

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) on Tuesday issued a circular outlining the appointment of corporate agents by commercial banks for partnering with insurance companies.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/insurance-regulator-unveils-guidelines-for-bank-insurance-partnerships>

Overvalued BDT undercuts trade competitiveness

- Bangladesh's currency remains overvalued for long and thus dents the trade competitiveness with overseas trading partners who are enjoying economic pickup and inflation downturn, economists say. Data show that the BDT remained overpriced by more than 5.6% or BDT 6.17 even though the currency had weakened more than 17% since July 2022.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/overvalued-taka-undercuts-trade-competitiveness-1703006371>

Bangladesh falls behind peers in wooing non-resident deposits

- Bangladesh has become the laggard among four South Asian countries when it comes to attracting deposits and investments from its nationals living abroad, according to a report of the World Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-falls-behind-peers-wooing-non-resident-deposits-3498541>

Skilled labour migration from Bangladesh rises

- The rate of less-skilled (widely known as unskilled) labour migration from Bangladesh has dropped around 23% this year to 0.626 Mn compared to last calendar year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/skilled-labour-migration-bangladesh-rises-759570>

HOSPITALITY | Luxury hotels log higher revenue: half of it comes from food, beverage

- Food and beverages are major sources of revenue for most of the luxury hotels in Bangladesh compared to their earnings from renting out rooms as operators have stepped up efforts to drive sales.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/luxury-hotels-log-higher-revenue-half-it-comes-food-beverage-3498481>

POWER | Local power producers push for separate classification

- Facing a perfect storm of working-capital woes, a USD crunch and protracted payment delays, local independent power producers have appealed for a change in how banks categorise them.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/local-power-producers-push-for-separate-classification>

CEMENT | Cement makers slash output as political tension flares up

- Cement makers in Bangladesh have reduced production in the face of falling sales due to ongoing political tension and a slowdown in public and private construction projects, according to industry people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cement-makers-slash-output-political-tension-flares-3498456>

INSURANCE | BIA AGM reveals mixed insurance growth in 2022

- The Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA) held its 36th annual general meeting (AGM) on Tuesday in Dhaka, revealing a mixed picture for the country's insurance sector in 2022. Despite a strong performance by non-life companies, a slight decline in private life insurance activity marked the year, according to a BIA press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bia-agm-reveals-mixed-insurance-growth-in-2022-1703010312>

Household income doubles in 6 years, so does spending

- The monthly household average income in Bangladesh more than doubled to BDT 32,422 last year from six years ago, data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022 showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/household-income-doubles-6-years-so-does-spending-3497661>

Bangladesh, South Korea sign USD 90 Mn loan deal on climate-resilient development

- A loan agreement on "Climate Resilient Inclusive Development Programme (Subprogram 1)" amounting to USD 90 Mn was signed between the governments of Bangladesh and South Korea on Monday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/environment/bangladesh-south-korea-sign-90m-loan-deal-on-climate-resilient-development>

Basic needs taking up majority of remittance spent

- Beneficiaries of remittance in Bangladesh spend a majority of the funds received on meeting basic needs, according to a recent study by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/basic-needs-taking-majority-remittance-spent-3497626>

BD remittance inflow less though more workers sent

- Remittance income of Bangladesh is not increasing accordingly though a large number of workers go abroad every year while many countries are earning more comparatively by sending less number of workers.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-remittance-inflow-less-though-more-workers-sent-1702919343>

Remittance to Bangladesh to remain flat at USD 23 Bn in 2024: World Bank

- While the labour export sector has witnessed remarkable growth, remittance inflows remained stagnant for the past two calendar years, hovering at the USD 22-Bn mark. The global lender predicted that the job generation for South Asian workers may hamper in the Gulf countries, major sources of remittance for Bangladesh, next year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/remittance-bangladesh-remain-flat-23b-2024-world-bank-760162>

July-Nov ADP spending lowest in 8 years

- Around 17.06% of the government's annual development programme (ADP) for the current fiscal year of 2023-24 was implemented in the first five months, the lowest in the past eight years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/july-nov-adp-spending-lowest-8-years-3497761>

Bangladesh's foreign debts go ballooning

- Bangladesh's foreign debts have increased nearly 3.5 times in last one decade to USD 97.01 Bn, a World Bank report says, on a note of alert about ballooning global debt-service costs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladeshs-foreign-debts-go-ballooning-1702919112>

RMG | Bangladesh now top knitwear supplier to EU

- Bangladesh has become the top knitwear exporter in the European Union for the first time, overtaking China, thanks to the duty facility available under the bloc's generous Everything but Arms (EBA) scheme.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-now-top-knitwear-supplier-eu-3497586>

ENERGY | 2,000MW new rooftop solar can help BPDB save USD 1 Bn a year: IEEFA

- While rooftop solar has struggled to gain traction in Bangladesh, a renewed focus and adding 2,000MW can help the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) save up to USD 1 Bn annually, a new report from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) finds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/2000mw-new-rooftop-solar-can-help-bpdb-save-1b-year-ieefa-760038>

RMG | Urged for BDT 40 Bn, finance releases BDT 10 Bn cash incentive for knitwear exporters

- The finance ministry has disbursed BDT 10 Bn in cash incentives for exporters following a request by the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) seeking immediate disbursement of the pending BDT 40 Bn cash incentives for the knitwear exporters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/finance-ministry-releases-tk1000cr-cash-incentive-exporters-759930>

HEALTHCARE | Most antibiotics ineffective in 90% cases: BSMMU study

- Most of the antibiotics commonly used in Bangladesh to combat the major microbes causing infections in the human body have become nearly 90% ineffective, a BSMMU study finds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/bsmmu-vc-stopping-sale-antibiotics-without-doctors-prescription-760006>

RMG | Another alert for Bangladesh RMG exports as shippers suspend operations on Suez Canal

- Bangladesh, which relies heavily on garments exports, is facing another round of worries after operations by major shippers on the Suez Canal – a primary route to Europe – was suspended following a missile attack on a vessel.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/another-red-alert-bangladesh-rmg-exports-red-seas-suez-canal-closes-after-missile-attack>

BANK | 14 banks face record capital shortfall

- Fourteen banks, including six state-run ones, faced a record capital shortfall in the third quarter of 2023, an indication of their fragile financial health caused mainly by a lack of governance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/14-banks-face-record-capital-shortfall-3497806>

BANK | Banks walk tightrope for larger liquidity crunch

- Banking system in Bangladesh gets into tighter liquidity situation as banks' cash stocks dip and cashable credits in vaults remain under hard pressure amid a crunch, experts have said. As such, the liquidity supports from the central bank to tidy balance sheets of the fund-strapped banks keep ballooning.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-walk-tightrope-for-larger-liquidity-crunch-1702919032>

NBR reduces tax on provident fund to 15%

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has reduced the tax on the income generated by provident and other pension funds to 15% from 27.5% in the current financial year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-reduces-tax-provident-fund-15-757830>

HEALTHCARE | Heart patients suffer as importers halt stent supply after price cuts

- A recent Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) decision slashing coronary stent prices by up to 40% has triggered a supply chain disruption as European stent importers, dissatisfied with the reduced margins, have halted sales in protest, leaving hospitals scrambling for alternatives and placing an enormous burden on vulnerable patients.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/heart-patients-suffer-importers-halt-stent-supply-after-price-cuts-759554>

ENERGY | Govt doubles gas price for Karnaphuli Fertiliser

- Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) will now be required to pay BDT 30 per cubic meter to procure gas from the state-owned gas distribution company, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-doubles-gas-price-karnaphuli-fertiliser-760146>

Forex reserves go past USD 20 Bn mark after loans from IMF, ADB

- Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves rose to USD 20.41 Bn today after USD 1.09 Bn in loans from two global lenders were added to the central bank's account, said an official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-reserves-go-past-20-billion-mark-after-loans-imf-ADB-3496491>

IMF charts ways to discipline money market, boost revenue

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set six new benchmark conditions for Bangladesh to restore discipline in the money market and boost revenue generation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-charts-ways-discipline-money-market-boost-revenue-3496786>

BB explains warning to cash-strapped Shariah banks

- The central bank yesterday said it asked five cash-strapped Shariah-based banks to adjust the deficit in their current account but did not decide yet that the lenders would be removed from payment platforms.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-explains-warning-cash-strapped-shariah-banks-3496961>

How weaker taka inflates Bangladesh's foreign debt costs

- A weakening local currency is poised to increase the government's foreign debt service obligations by nearly 11% from the amount kept aside in the ongoing fiscal year, according to the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-weaker-taka-inflates-bangladeshs-foreign-debt-costs-759542>

CERAMICS | Turkish ceramics brand Kale enters Bangladesh market

- Kale Ceramics, a leading ceramic tile manufacturer from Turkey, has opened its doors in Bangladesh, offering a wide range of high-quality tiles and sanitaryware at competitive prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/turkish-ceramics-brand-kale-enters-bangladesh-market-759510>

LEATHER | Leather sector wasting opportunities

- The leather sector is struggling to make its mark in the global market despite having the guarantee of an abundance of raw materials and workers. The value addition falls to 30% for products made for export markets owing to a lack of certification from Leather Working Group (LWG).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/leather-sector-wasting-opportunities-3496736>

Moody's keeps B1 rating for Bangladesh, says outlook stable

- Moody's Investors Service has kept Bangladesh's rating, and the country's long-term outlook stable, which indicates the global rating agency does not anticipate any significant changes in the economy's creditworthiness or its ability to meet its financial obligations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/moodys-keeps-bangladeshs-ratings-b1-says-outlook-stable-758202>

IMF sets Bangladesh's net reserve target at USD 19.27 Bn for 3rd instalment

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set the net foreign exchange reserve ceiling to USD 17.78 Bn for December, revising it down from the previous target of USD 26.8 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-sets-bangladeshs-net-reserve-target-1927b-3rd-instalment-758226>

Forex reserves slightly up

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves rose slightly over the past week. As per the Bangladesh Bank (BB) available data, the reserves stood at USD 19.16 Bn as of 13 December from USD 19.13 Bn on 6 December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/forex-exchange-reserves-slightly-757738>

No waiver needed for govt for 2nd IMF loan tranche

- Though Bangladesh could not meet two conditions to qualify for the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund's loan, the government did not have to seek any waiver from the board of the global lender.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-waiver-needed-govt-2nd-imf-loan-tranche-3494606>

50 tasks in 3 years to stabilise economy

- The government has pledged to take more than 50 reform measures in three years under the International Monetary Fund's loan programme to rebuild foreign currency reserves and contain inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/50-tasks-3-years-stabilise-economy-3495991>

Import rebound elusive, falls further amid fund crunch

- Import rebound still remains elusive as a double-digit contraction was recorded in five months of this fiscal with consumer goods accounting for the deepest dip by nearly 27%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/import-rebound-elusive-falls-further-amid-fund-crunch-1702574897>

External pressures will remain despite IMF loan payout

- The International Monetary Fund's USD 689 Mn second instalment of the USD 4.7 Bn loan will give a much-needed boost to the country's foreign currency reserves but pressures on the country's external position will remain, said Moody's Investors Service.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/external-pressure-will-remain-despite-imf-loan-payout-3495976>

RMG | Bangladesh eyes USD 1 Bn in wool garments export with Australia partnership

- Bangladesh aims to boost its annual high-end woollen garment exports tenfold to USD 1 Bn in the next five years as Australia, one of the world's largest wool producers, is considering Bangladesh as a potential alternative to China for its wool processing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-eyes-1b-wool-garments-export-australia-partnership-757918>

TRADE | Talks with leading global port operator underway on NCT lease out

- Discussions are currently underway with a private port operator that complies with international standards for the lease of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), as the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) looks to lease out this important container terminal.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/talks-with-leading-global-port-operator-underway-on-nct-lease-out-1702577996?date=15-12-2023>

TRADE | Payment period for raw material imports extended till June

- The central bank has allowed the extended usance period against imports of industrial raw materials – to 360 days from 180 – to remain in place till June 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/payment-period-raw-material-imports-extended-till-june-757546>

RMG | BKMEA appeals for product price adjustment in response to new minimum wage structure

- The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has requested the cooperation of the buyers forum, brands, retailers, and buyer's representatives to consider adjusting product prices in response to the recently announced minimum wage structure, set to be effective from December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bkmea-appeals-product-price-adjustment-response-new-minimum-wage-structure-757806>

Important News: Capital Market

CROWNCEMNT | Crown Cement approves 20% cash dividend

- The shareholders of Crown Cement PLC have approved a 20% cash dividend which was recommended by the board of directors for the year ended June 30, 2023, said a press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/crown-cement-approves-20pc-cash-dividend-1703098865>

SUNLIFEINS | Health minister, his sister to sell inherited shares of Sunlife Insurance

- Health Minister Zahid Maleque and his sister Rubina Hamid are set to sell some more of Sunlife Insurance shares that they inherited from their deceased mother.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/health-minister-his-sister-sell-inherited-shares-sunlife-insurance-761462>

GSPFINANCE | GSP Finance reports losses of BDT 667 Mn in Jan-Sept

- GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh) reported a loss of BDT 667 Mn for the nine months through September this year owing to a drop in interest income while interest expenses soared.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/gsp-finance-reports-losses-of-tk-667m-in-jan-sept-1703098440>

FAREASTLIF | IDRA steps in as Fareast Islami Life Insurance falls behind on payout

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has ordered Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Limited not to spend anything from its premium income, income from investment and life fund if it fails to settle claims of policyholders by this month.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/idra-steps-fareast-islami-life-insurance-falls-behind-payout-3499316>

INTRACO | Intraco starts supplying gas from Bhola to industries around Dhaka on Thursday

- Gas from three Bhola fields is set to be transported to gas-starved industrial zones around the capital from Thursday (21 December), according to the state-owned Sundarban Gas Company Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/intraco-starts-supplying-gas-bhola-industries-around-dhaka-thursday-761454>

EXCHANGE | Asset managers squeezed by selling pressure of open-ended funds

- Asset managers dealing with open-ended mutual funds (MFs) have been enduring liquidity pressure while having to pay off unitholders against the sell-off of units for investments are stuck in the capital market due to floor price.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/asset-managers-squeezed-by-selling-pressure-of-open-ended-funds-1703098275>

AOPLC | Agro Organica's debut trading today

- Another SME firm, Agro Organica will make its share trading debut on the SME platform of the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange today (Wednesday).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/agro-organicas-debut-trading-today-1703010439>

SINOBANGLA | Sinobangla to begin issuing rights shares on Jan 28

- Rights share subscription of Sinobangla Industries is set to begin on January 28 to raise BDT 202 Mn from shareholders.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sinobangla-to-begin-issuing-rights-shares-on-jan-28-1703010411>

HAKKANIPUL | Hakkani Pulp & Paper to issue 16 Mn shares for working capital

- Hakkani Pulp & Paper Mills will raise BDT 160 Mn by issuing ordinary shares at BDT 10 each to sponsors and directors to enhance its production quality and fulfill the working capital shortage.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/hakkani-pulp-paper-to-issue-16m-shares-for-working-capital-1703010381>

NBL | SC orders status quo on National Bank AGM till 21 Jan

- The chamber judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division on Tuesday imposed a status quo on the holding of the annual general meeting (AGM) of the National Bank until 21 January 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sc-orders-status-quo-national-bank-agm-till-21-jan-760734>

EXCHANGE | DSE looks into clients' account fraud by AVIVA Equity

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has formed a two-member team to investigate misappropriation of investors' money and other financial frauds committed by AVIVA Equity Management.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-looks-into-clients-account-fraud-by-aviva-equity-1703010202>

LIBRAINFU | Libra Infusions allowed to pay 50% stock dividend

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed Libra Infusions Limited to issue a 50% stock dividend for the fiscal year that ended on 30 June 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/libra-infusions-allowed-pay-50-stock-dividend-760138>

ITC | ITC AGM approves 10% cash dividend

- Shareholders of the Information Technology Consultants Limited (ITC) approved 10% cash dividend for 2022-23 and a change in the name of the company from 'Information Technology Consultants Ltd.' to 'IT Consultants PLC.'.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/itc-agm-approves-10pc-cash-dividend-1702921936>

EXCHANGE | Unfavourable business climate stymies IPO flow

- Fund raising from the primary market through initial public offerings (IPOs) has fallen sharply to BDT 2.68 Bn this year, the lowest in six years, as entrepreneurs adopted 'go-slow' policy ahead of the national election.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/unfavourable-business-climate-stymies-ipo-flow-1702921323>

EXCHANGE | Asset managers to lose licence for failing to manage funds: BSEC

- Asset managers will lose their licence unless they operate at least one mutual fund within a year from the date of the directive issued by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Monday (18 December).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asset-managers-lose-licence-failing-manage-funds-bsec-760158>

GP | Grameenphone launches IoT devices

- Grameenphone today introduced a range of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, enabling users to remotely monitor and control their gas stoves, lights and other related safety aspects of home, vehicle, office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/grameenphone-launches-iot-devices-3496731>

NITOLINS | Nitol Insurance chairman among 3 fined BDT 8 Mn for stock irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has slapped a fine of BDT 8 Mn on three investors, including the chairman of the Nitol Insurance Company, for irregularities during the share trade of the insurer.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nitol-insurance-chairman-among-3-fined-tk80-lakh-stock-irregularities-759486>

ICB | ICB, at risk of negative equity, looks to govt support to keep running

- The state-run Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has reported first-time loss for the Q1, FY24, but the last 14-year data points to inefficient management from the start that has pushed it to the verge of collapse..

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/icb-at-risk-of-negative-equity-looks-to-govt-support-to-keep-running-1702835543>

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharmaceuticals declared 105% cash dividend

- Square Pharmaceuticals declared 105% cash dividend to its shareholders for the year ended in June this year at its 57th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/square-pharmaceuticals-declared-105-per-cent-cash-dividend-1702578441>

SQUARETEXT | Square Textiles approves 30% cash dividend

- The turnover, gross profit and net profit (After Tax) for the year ended 30 June 2023 were BDT 14.97 Bn, BDT 1.88 Bn and BDT 1.07 Bn respectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/square-textiles-approves-30pc-cash-dividend-1702578359>

KDSALTD | KDS Accessories announces 10% cash dividend

- KDS Accessories Ltd has declared a 10% cash dividend for the year 2022-2023 at the company's 32nd annual general meeting.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/kds-accessories-announces-10-cash-dividend-3494686>

BDLAMPS | Bangladesh Lamps declares 10% cash dividend

- Bangladesh Lamps Limited, an authorised manufacturer and distributor of Transtec lighting products including smart LED bulbs and tube lights, declared a 10% cash dividend at the 62nd annual general meeting (AGM) of the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bangladesh-lamps-declares-10-cash-dividend-3494621>

PLFSL | People's Leasing plans to rebrand itself as Sonar Bangla

- The scam-hit non-bank financial institution (NBFI) People's Leasing and Financial Services plans to rebrand as Sonar Bangla Lease Finance PLC to get rid of the negative image as part of its revival strategy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/peoples-leasing-plans-rebrand-sonar-bangla-lease-revival-758690>

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