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Daily News Snippet

November 25, 2024

Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,146.50
% change	-0.98%
DS30 Index	1,899.90
% change	-1.00%
DSES Index	1,149.43
% change	-0.18%
Turnover (BDT mn)	3,020.56
Turnover (USD mn)	25.17
% change	-16.97%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,296.51
% change	0.00%
S&P 500	5,969.34
% change	0.00%
Nikkei 225	38,283.85
% change	0.00%
FTSE 100	8,262.08
% change	0.00%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	120.00	120.00
EUR	125.00	125.03
GBP	150.37	150.41
INR	1.42	1.42
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
24-Nov-24	9.75 – 11.00	10.04
21-Nov-24	9.50 – 11.00	10.02
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	74.69	-0.64%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,719.85	0.27%
Cotton, USD/lb.	70.77	0.00%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX lost 0.98% in the last trading day, closing at 5,146.50 points.
- The daily turnover decreased 16.97% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Majority of the leading global indices were closed yesterday.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI was also closed yesterday.

Key macro indicators

- While the USD rate remained stable, the values of all major currencies depreciated against BDT.
- The average overnight rate increased in the last trading day.
- The current weighted average overnight rate stood at 10.04% with a high rate of 11.00% and low rate of 9.75%.
- The oil price decreased 0.64% in the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

July-October ADP spending record low at 7.9%

- The implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the first four months of the current fiscal year has plummeted to 7.9%, an all-time low of the period, according to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED).
- During the July-October period, BDT 21,987.17 crore was utilised, a sharp decline from BDT 31,358.50 crore spent during the same period last fiscal year.
- The government allocated BDT 278,288.90 crore for the ADP in the current fiscal year.
- However, the secretary expressed optimism that the flow of funds to development projects would increase in the near future, accelerating progress.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/jul-oct-adp-spending-hits-15-year-low-1001406

Complex tax structure main hurdle for SME entrepreneurs: Study

- A staggering 57% of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs identified the complex tax structure as the primary obstacle to doing business in compliance with the law, according to a study by the SME Foundation.
- It also shows 54% of entrepreneurs considered trade licence renewal process to be a hindrance.
- 51% cited the additional costs associated with these licences as a nuisance.
- Some 44% cited the complexity of government laws and regulations as another key obstacle.
- The research was conducted on 304 entrepreneurs from Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-structure-and-bureaucratic-hurdles-top-challenges-sme-entrepreneurs-study-1001426

Targeted cash transfers can cut poverty by a third: CPD

- Targeted cash transfers to poor households could reduce Bangladesh's poverty rate by 6.13% points, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
- The think-tank argued that current social safety net programmes are plagued by inefficiencies such as errors in beneficiary selection.
- The CPD proposed providing BDT 4,500 per month to targeted households based on their level of income.
- The CPD also added that households could be identified using a poverty scorecard and intervention approaches could be tailored to poverty-prone, climate-vulnerable and highly poverty-prone areas.
- According to the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022, the poverty rate in Bangladesh was 18.7%, while the extreme poverty rate stood at 5.6%.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/targeted-cash-transfers-can-cut-poverty-third-cpd-3760936

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Remittances reach $1.726b in November's three weeks

- An ongoing inward-remittance rebound brought Bangladesh USD 1.726 billion during the first 23 days of this month.
- In October, remittance inflows had totalled USD 2.395 billion, also marking a robust performance.
- People familiar with the matter told that two key factors contributed to the steady inflows: expatriates' growing confidence in improved governance within the banking sector and their tendency to send higher remittances towards the end of the calendar year.
- For the fiscal year 2024-25, July-October worker-remittance inflows stood at USD 8.937 billion, reflecting nearly a 30% increase compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- Dhaka Division-wherein lies the centripetal capital of Bangladesh-received the highest share of remittances, amounting to USD 1.133 billion or 47.34% of the total inflows in October, according to Bangladesh Bank report.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/remittances-reach-1726b-in-novembers-three-weeks-1732474008

BB officials demonstrate seeking removal of two deputy governors

- A group of officials of Bangladesh Bank (BB) demonstrated at the central bank premises today demanding resignation of two deputy governors: Nurun Nahar and Habibur Rahman.
- Both of the deputy governors were appointed during the last tenure of the Awami League government.
- Earlier on the day, the officials met with BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur, informing him that they will continue their demonstration until the demand is met.
- The demonstrators said that the Awami League government and its affiliated businesses looted several banks with the assistance of some officials of the central bank.
- After the fall of the Hasina-administration, Nahar and Rahman kept unchanged in their posts, which is illogical, according to demonstrators.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-officials-demonstrate-seeking-removal-two-deputy-governors-3760666

Apparel and Textile

Govt must act fast to get western travel alerts lifted, urges garment industry

- The interim government must make concerted efforts to persuade western nations, including the United States and the European Union, to withdraw their travel alerts on Bangladesh and counter the claims of attacks on minorities, according to garment industry leaders.

- They also cautioned that failure to do so could result in a loss of business to competing countries.
- Faruque Hassan, former BGMEA president, highlighted the growing apprehension among international buyers.
- This, Hassan noted, undermines the industry's ability to negotiate competitive prices.
- Sirazul Islam Azad, chief human resource officer of Bitopi Group, recounted how a Spanish designer cancelled a planned visit to Bangladesh last week despite having booked a ticket, citing his country's advisory against travel to Bangladesh.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/govt-must-act-fast-get-western-travel-alerts-lifted-urges-garment-industry-1001766

Energy

Nat'l committee seeks top int'l law firm for power deal review

- The National Review Committee of the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources has called for the hiring of a renowned international legal and investigative firm to assist in the evaluation of major power generation contracts signed between 2009 and 2024 under Sheikh Hasina's administration.
- The committee, headed by Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury, said that additional time is required to further analyse other solicited and unsolicited contracts.
- The committee also said that it is gathering evidence that could pave the way for potential renegotiations or cancellations of contracts in accordance with international arbitration laws and procedures.
- It further added it wants to ensure that its investigations are in line with international standards and will be acceptable in international negotiations and arbitration.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/national-review-committee-seeks-international-legal-expertise-review-power-sector

Capital Market

Stocks open week in red: DSEX drops 51 points

- The benchmark index, DSEX, of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) started the week on a bearish note, declining by 51 points today, driven by a downturn in large-cap stocks such as Square Pharmaceuticals, BRAC Bank, and BAT Bangladesh.
- Stocks opened lower and maintained a downward trend throughout the trading session, with the DSEX closing at 5,146 points.
- The DSE Shariah Index slipped by 2 points to settle at 1,149, while the DS30, the blue-chip index, dropped 19 points to finish at 1,899.
- Turnover, a key indicator of the premier bourse, declined by approximately 17%, amounting to BDT 302 crore, as investor participation remained subdued.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-down-opening-today-1001061