Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,170.06
% change	0.44%
DS30 Index	1,914.23
% change	0.19%
DSES Index	1,147.23
% change	0.70%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,711.54
Turnover (USD mn)	38.62
% change	6.02%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,873.28
% change	0.71%
S&P 500	6,061.48
% change	0.39%
Nikkei 225	38,910.00
% change	0.29%
FTSE 100	8,623.29
% change	0.61%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	122.00	122.00
EUR	126.60	126.65
GBP	152.24	152.26
INR	1.40	1.40
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
5-Feb-25	9.50 - 11.00	9.99
4-Feb-25	9.50 - 11.00	10.01
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	74.72	-1.94%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,869.35	0.99%
Cotton, USD/lb.	66.04	-1.34%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.44% in the last trading day, closing at 5170.06 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 6.02% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Some of the key global indices performed positively in the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 0.71%, the S&P 500 rose by 0.39%, and the FTSE 100 rose by 0.61%.
- One of the key Asian indices, the Nikkei 225 rose by 0.29%.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of the BDT fell against the EUR and the GBP, rose against the INR, and remained stable against the USD.
- The average overnight rate stood at 9.99%, standing between 9.50% and 11.00%.
- Prices of oil futures fell by 1.94%, the price of gold increased by 0.99%, and the price of cotton fell by 1.34%.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Fourth, fifth loan tranches may come together in June

- Releasing the fourth instalment from IMF loan package may be delayed until June and come jointly with the fifth tranche then, unless two mandatory prior actions are executed.
- The two must-dos are additional revenue mobilisation and exchange-rate flexibility.
- Officials said the fourth instalment amounting to USD 645 million was expected to come by February 10 following a board meeting on February 5 by concluding third review.
- A senior finance ministry official told the FE that the International Monetary Fund officials were now discussing with the government whether they can release the next instalments in June after concluding the third and fourth reviews of the credit programme.
- Under the fifth instalment Bangladesh is scheduled to get around USD 530 million from the USD 4.7-billion lending package that the IMF extended to Bangladesh in January 2023 to help support the country's sluggish economy to accomplish stability.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fourth-fifth-loan-tranches-may-come-together-in-june-1738781641

GDP growth target may be revised down to 5.25%

- The GDP growth target may be brought down to 5.25% in the revised budget for the current fiscal year due to the damage caused by multiple floods and the interim government's contractionary monetary policy to contain high inflation.
- The previous government had set the growth target at 6.75% in the original budget.
- A discussion on the revised budget for the current fiscal year was held among top officials from the finance, commerce, and planning ministries, as well as Bangladesh Bank, at the Chief Adviser's Office, with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus in the chair.
- Finance ministry officials said they presented the current macroeconomic indicators and the revised budget during the meeting.
- The growth of the agriculture sector will decrease due to repeated floods at the beginning of the current fiscal year according to a finance ministry official.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gdp-growth-target-may-be-revised-down-525-3817276

Wage growth negative for 3 years as inflation outpaces pay rise

- Stubbornly high price pressures have kept real wage growth negative for three consecutive years, forcing low-income households to cut back on protein consumption and brace for food insecurity.
- Inflation has outpaced wage growth for 36 consecutive months up to January, despite a gradual increase in pay gains since January 2021, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- The wage growth rate stood at 8.16% in January, 1.78% below the inflation rate of 9.94% that month, as per the BBS Wage Rate Index (WRI).

- The widest gap between inflation and wage growth was in July last year, at 3.73%.
- Economists say this widening disparity has forced low-income and unskilled workers to reduce food consumption due to declining real incomes.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wage-growth-negative-3-years-inflation-outpaces-pay-rise-3817296

Gold prices hit historic high in Bangladesh at Tk 1.48 lakh per bhori

- Gold prices have reached a historic peak in Bangladesh, with the Bangladesh Jeweller's Association (Bajus) raising the price of 22-carat gold by BDT 2,928 per bhori.
- The new price now stands at BDT 1,47,818 per bhori, marking the highest cost ever recorded in the country's history.
- The price hike, effective from 6 February, follows an increase in the price of refined gold in the local market 5 February.
- This price adjustment applies to 22-carat gold, which now costs BDT 1,47,818 per bhori (11.664 grams).
- Besides, 21-carat gold is priced at BDT 1,41,099 per bhori, while 18-carat gold costs BDT 1,20,944 per bhori.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/gold-prices-hit-historic-high-bangladesh-tk148-lakh-bhori-1062011

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Green Delta launches Bangladesh’s first insurance for pets

- Green Delta has launched the country's first insurance for pets, which the insurer sees as a milestone for the industry.
- This innovative product provides crucial financial protection for beloved companion animals, covering a range of unforeseen events, including accidental injuries, critical illnesses, and specified diseases.
- Currently, the pet insurance policy will cover only dogs and cats,
- The coverage for dogs ranges from BDT 20,000 to BDT 80,000, while the coverage for cats ranges from BDT 10,000 to BDT 30,000.
- Karoby Shihab, an inhabitant of Dhaka's Mohammadpur and the owner of four cats, said she would consider taking up the insurance but only after seeing its progress in the future.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/green-delta-launches-bangladeshs-first-insurance-pets-3816861

Energy

Dhaka wants immediate activation of Bangladesh-Algeria energy working group

- Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin has emphasised the importance of immediate operationalisation of the working group with Algeria on energy formed at the respective capitals, with the purpose of identifying areas of potential collaboration in the energy sector.
- The issue was discussed at the second Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Algeria which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria in Algiers.
- During the consultations, both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, investment and cultural cooperation, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- They expressed satisfaction over the growing ties between the two countries as evident from the increased number of MoUs from 6 to 22, visits of businessmen to each other's capital during the last three years.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/dhaka-wants-immediate-activation-bangladesh-algeria-energy-working-group-1062096

No load-shedding, early closure of shops this Ramadan: Adviser Fouzul

- Electricity will be supplied nationwide as per demand, with no scheduled market or shop closures during the upcoming Ramadan, according to Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan.
- Ramadan's electricity demand is expected to reach 15,700 megawatts, and no load shedding is anticipated due to a planned balance between supply and demand.
- He further said that to support additional electricity generation, gas supply will be increased to 1,200 million cubic feet, up from the current 900 million cubic feet.
- Mentioning that there will be no mandatory closures for markets like last year, the adviser said that closures could be considered if electricity consumption in markets threatens to cause load shedding or disrupt irrigation.
- Fouzul stated that electricity demand during summer is estimated to reach 18,000MW, with a gas supply of 1,100 million cubic feet from April to September, which could result in load shedding ranging from 700MW to 1,400MW.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/no-load-shedding-early-closure-shops-ramadan-adviser-fouzul-1061831

Govt to set benchmark rate for power purchases to cut subsidies: Energy adviser

- The government will implement a benchmark price to lower the power purchase rate with a view to reducing electricity subsidies, according to Power and Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan.

- Despite being under significant pressure due to electricity subsidies, the government has no immediate plans to increase prices.
- Only the pricing initiative taken by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) for new gas connections will be implemented because the government incurs a cost of BDT 72 per unit for importing gas, while it is supplied to the industrial sector at BDT 30 per unit.
- Fouzul Kabir said that the government-formed task force will soon begin work on adjusting electricity tariffs.
- He also stated that electricity demand during summer is estimated to reach 18,000MW, with a gas supply The power purchase agreement for the Matarbari coal-based power plant has been prepared, setting the tariff at BDT 8.40 per unit.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-set-benchmark-rate-power-purchases-cut-subsidies-energy-adviser-1062006

Capital Market

Dhaka stocks extend rally for fifth day

- Dhaka stocks rose for the fifth straight session yesterday.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange gained 22.72 points, or 0.44%, to close at 5,170.06.
- Among the traded securities, 207 advanced, 129 declined, and 65 remained unchanged.
- Turnover stood at BDT 471.15 crore.
- Global Islami Bank topped the gainers' list, surging 10%, while Sikder Insurance Company saw the biggest drop, falling 5.9\%.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-stocks-extend-rally-fifth-day-3816756

BAT Bangladesh declares 150% cash dividend

- BAT Bangladesh declared a 150% cash dividend as the final for 2024.
- Its total dividend will be 300% cash including 150% interim which was already paid in December last year.
- To approve the final dividend and audited financial statements, the company will conduct the annual general meeting which is scheduled on 25 March and the record date set for 26 February.
- In the last year, its earnings per share stood at BDT 32.42, which was lower than BDT 33.11 in the previous year.
- Following the dividend declaration, its share price fell by 0.93% to settle at BDT 350 in the first half an hour of Thursday session.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bat-bangladesh-declares-150-cash-dividend-1062246