EBL ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD.
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Daily News Snippet

February 12, 2025

Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,192.05
% change	0.34%
DS30 Index	1,914.07
% change	0.10%
DSES Index	1,152.70
% change	0.30%
Turnover (BDT mn)	5,195.53
Turnover (USD mn)	42.59
% change	23.51%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,593.65
% change	0.28%
S&P 500	6,068.50
% change	0.03%
Nikkei 225	39,062.50
% change	0.67%
FTSE 100	8,777.39
% change	0.11%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	122.00	122.00
EUR	125.73	125.77
GBP	150.87	150.95
INR	1.39	1.39
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
11-Feb-25	9.70 - 11.00	10.05
10-Feb-25	9.50 - 11.00	10.12
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	77.00	1.49%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,888.97	-0.99%
Cotton, USD/lb.	67.40	1.29%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.34% in the last trading day, closing at 5192.05 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 23.51% 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 0.28%, the S&P 500 rose by 0.03%, and the FTSE 100 rose by 0.11%.
- One of the key Asian indices, the Nikkei 225 rose by 0.67%.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of the BDT rose against the EUR, the GBP, fell against the INR, and remained stable against the USD.
- The average overnight rate stood at 10.05%, standing between 9.70% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures rose by 1.49%, the price of gold fell by -0.99%, and the price of cotton rose by 1.29%.

Bangladesh Macro Update

WB for better transparency, governance in taxation

- In a call on Bangladesh Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna, World Bank Vice-President Martin Raiser on Tuesday suggested separation of tax administration and tax policy to improve transparency and governance in the revenue system.
- Raiser said parliament should be the sole authority to decide on tax exemptions.
- Raiser also stressed the improvement of public procurement and the importance of the independence of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics to improve the quality of data, which is essential for sound policymaking.
- The WB vice-president reiterated the World Bank's pledge to support the reform agenda of Bangladesh's interim government.
- They discussed issues of mutual interest, including the World Bank's financing of the country's major transparency, governance, and digitalisation reforms, including tax administration.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/wb-for-better-transparency-governance-in-taxation-1739297431

Govt strategy coming for export competitiveness of 4 major sectors

- Government authorities have got down to devising a strategy for keeping competitiveness of four major export sectors beyond apparel after 2026 when export subsidy will go following Bangladesh's graduation from world's poor-country club.
- The four sectors, leather and leather goods, jute goods, agriculture and agro-processed goods, and pharmaceuticals are now under government focus to maintain export growth after the country graduates from the least-developed-country status, officials said.
- The Ministry of Finance this week formed a committee for brainstorming on what measures can be taken to maintain their export competitiveness on the global market and further raise export of the products in the post-LDC era.
- Bangladesh is scheduled to graduate from the status of least-developed country (LDC) after 2026, and according to World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, the developing countries are not allowed to provide subsidies to support their exports.
- To help the export sector cope with the shock from sudden withdrawal of subsidies, the government in January last year lowered cash incentives for almost all sectors which enjoy the financial support.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-strategy-coming-for-export-competitiveness-of-4-major-sectors-1739297491

Govt moves to boost economic ties with ME countries

- Bangladesh's interim government is working to improve relations with Middle-Eastern development partners as the ties were in a shambles during the ousted Sheikh Hasina regime, officials said Tuesday.

- The government has not only improved communications for economic cooperation with Gulf and Middle-Eastern donors but is also going to hold three Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meetings with three key countries, Economic Relations Division (ERD) officials said.
- The JEC meets will be held with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the UAE by June aiming to improve economic and business cooperation with Gulf and Middle-Eastern nations.
- The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) financing wing-the International Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC)-in December last finalised a USD 2.75-billion loan to Bangladesh under a trade-financing arrangement for purchasing oil, LNG, and fertiliser in the next year 2025-26.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-moves-to-boost-economic-ties-with-me-countries-1739298075

Govt forms body to outline action plan for non-RMG export boost

- The finance ministry is formulating an action plan to identify additional forms of support, beyond cash incentives, to enhance the export capacity of key sectors other than ready-made garments.
- Additionally, the government on 10 February formed a platform to promote non-RMG potential export sectors, according to an official order.
- The ministry has formed an inter-ministerial committee to develop action plans and platforms to boost the export capacity of leather, jute, agriculture, processed agricultural products, and pharmaceutical sectors.
- Apart from identifying obstacles to boosting export capacity in these sectors, the committee will present its commendations to the government about financial and non-financial policy support.
- The committee will assess the challenges the sectors may face if export incentives end after Bangladesh graduates from the least developed country (LDC) status in 2026 and propose solutions.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/committee-formed-formulate-action-plan-increase-export-capacity-different-sectors-1066586

Textile

690 BGMEA members removed from active factory list for renewal

- The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) currently has 1,806 active members, according to the latest update following an audit by Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co.
- Of the active members, 1,482 are from the Dhaka zone, including 58 under review, while 324 are from the Chattogram zone, including 22 under review.
- As of 10 February, 690 factories were removed from the list of active members due to missing documentation on their operation in the industry for membership renewal.
- In the 2023 BGMEA election, the voter count was 2,496, with 2,064 from Dhaka and 432 from Chattogram.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-administrators-tenure-extended-120-days-1066751

Energy

G-7's failing renewables commitment, pushing fossil fuel in Bangladesh, beyond: Report

- The richest nations, including the G-7 countries, are failing to uphold their commitments to global renewable energy expansion.
- Instead, they are increasingly investing in fossil fuel projects in developing countries like Bangladesh, obstructing global carbon emission reduction targets, according to a report by Global Energy Monitor (GEM).
- The report showed global solar and wind power capacity grew by one-fifth last year.
- However, G-7 countries contributed very little to this new capacity, despite their commitments to facilitate renewable energy investments in climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.
- GEM highlights that instead of prioritising renewable energy projects in Bangladesh — one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, wealthy nations are increasing investments in polluting energy sources like LNG and coal.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/g-7s-failing-renewables-commitment-pushing-fossil-fuel-bangladesh-beyond-report

Capital Market

Stocks rise for second day

- Dhaka stocks extended their gains for the second straight day today when the turnover also rose.
- The DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), gained 17.76 points, or 0.34%, to close at 5,192.05.
- Investor participation was positive as 215 advanced, 119 declined and 65 remained unchanged among the traded securities.
- The turnover increased 23% to BDT 519.55 crore.
- The Shariah-based DSES index gained 0.49% to 1,149.20 points, while the blue-chip DS30 index edged up 0.02% to 1,912.22.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stocks-rise-second-day-3821611

Reliance Insurance earns record profit on high premium income

- Reliance Insurance secured a record profit in 2024, supported by higher premium income and investment return, in a challenging business climate.
- The insurer's profit jumped 39% year-on-year to BDT 959 million in 2024, the highest since its listing in the stock market in 1995.
- Accordingly, its earnings per share rose to BDT 9.12 in 2024 from BDT 6.56 the year before.

- Based on the profit growth, the company declared a 30% cash dividend for 2024, meaning investors will receive BDT 3 per share from the company's income of BDT 9.12 each share.
- The dividend yield is 5.15% for the year, highest since 2019, when the yield was 5.75%.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/reliance-insurance-earns-record-profit-on-high-premium-income-1739296028

Trustees, custodians to be signatories of MF transactions: Taskforce

- Trustees and custodians are often blamed for not securing interest of unit holders of mutual funds whenever embezzlement of any fund by a rogue asset management company (AMC) makes headlines.
- Facing a situation like that, several trustees said that they had little power to stop fund mismanagement as fund managers were the signatory of transactions and withdrawals of funds.
- Considering the limitations, the taskforce of the country's capital market suggested making trustee and custodian signatories of the transactions conducted by AMCs.
- It made a set of recommendations in a report submitted to the securities regulator, aimed at bringing discipline to the mutual fund industry.
- The MF industry in other countries, including neighbouring India, flourished over time as fund managers ensured good returns for investors

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/trustees-custodians-to-be-signatories-of-mf-transactions-taskforce-1739295985

Money to be invested in only 'A' stocks by credit-worthy investors

- Taskforce meant to suggest reforms to the capital market recommended that investors having less than BDT 1 million in equity investment do not get margin loans and only 'A' category companies be considered as marginable stocks.
- The changes to the margin rules are aimed at lowering risks of loans turning sour or increasing the burden of negative equity.
- The taskforce submitted a draft report, with its recommendations, to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Monday.
- The taskforce in its report said that lenders must conduct risk profiling of their clients before the disbursement of margin loans.
- Many investors had no financial ability to mitigate the risks of margin loans but still received loans to invest in equities and eventually their investments have been wiped out and replaced, in extreme cases, with negative equity.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/money-to-be-invested-in-only-a-stocks-by-credit-worthy-investors-1739295838