

Bangladesh Market

| Major Indices | Last closing |
|-------------------|--------------|
| DSEX Index | 4,883.57 |
| % change | 0.47% |
| DS30 Index | 1,882.55 |
| % change | 0.50% |
| DSES Index | 1,008.67 |
| % change | 0.61% |
| Turnover (BDT mn) | 3,381.02 |
| Turnover (USD mn) | 27.64 |
| % change | -17.01% |

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

| Major Indices | Last closing |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 47,954.99 |
| % change | 0.60% |
| S&P 500 | 6,932.05 |
| % change | 0.32% |
| Nikkei 225 | 50,344.10 |
| % change | -0.40% |
| FTSE 100 | 9,870.68 |
| % change | -0.19% |

Source: Investing.com

Exchange rate

| Major Currencies | Low (BDT) | High (BDT) |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| USD | 122.32 | 122.34 |
| EUR | 144.26 | 144.30 |
| GBP | 165.33 | 165.40 |
| INR | 1.37 | 1.37 |

Source: BB

Money market

| Date | Call Money Rate Range (%) | Weighted Average |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 24-Dec-25 | 9.85-11.00 | 10.04 |
| 23-Dec-25 | 9.50-11.00 | 9.99 |

Source: BB

Commodities

| Major Commodities | Price | % Change |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl. | 62.24 | -0.22% |
| Gold Spot, USD/t oz. | 4,479.64 | -0.20% |
| Cotton, USD/lb. | 64.24 | 0.36% |

Source: Investing.com

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.47% on the last trading day, closing at 4,883.57 points.
- The daily turnover fell by 17.01% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- The majority of the leading global indices rose during the last trading day.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, posted a 0.19% loss.

Key Macro Indicators

- The BDT was stable against the majority of the currencies.
- The average overnight rate stood at 10.04%, standing between 9.85% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures fell by 0.22%, gold price fell by 0.20%, and cotton price rose by 0.36% last day.

Economic Outlook

How unexpected cost of bank merger puts govt in liquidity stress

- The recent merger of several troubled banks resulted in an unplanned Tk20,000 crore cost, forcing the government to increase bank borrowing. This surge in borrowing crowded out credit to the private sector, pushed up treasury yields toward about 11%, and led Bangladesh Bank to inject liquidity while warning of inflation risks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/how-unexpected-cost-bank-merger-puts-govt-liquidity-stress-1320201>

Sectors

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Use of credit cards jumps domestically, overseas: BB

- Bangladesh Bank data shows that credit card transactions within the country increased from about Tk 33.95 billion in September to Tk 34.71 billion in October, while overseas spending by Bangladeshi cardholders climbed to Tk 5.34 billion in October from Tk 4.94 billion in September – indicating stronger consumer spending and more international activity. The United States was the top destination for overseas credit card spending.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/use-of-credit-cards-jumps-domestically-overseas-bb-1766678907>

Merged banks' deposits to be transferred to Sommilito Islami Bank next week

- Bangladesh Bank says the process of transferring depositors' accounts from First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank and EXIM Bank into the newly formed Sommilito Islami Bank will be completed within the next week. After the transfer, depositors can withdraw up to Tk 2 lakh with their existing cheque books, and remaining balances will stay secure with profit paid at prevailing rates. The move is part of efforts to stabilise the banking sector and boost confidence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/merged-banks-deposits-be-transferred-sommilito-islami-bank-next-week-4067396>

Brac Bank, BIFFL Partner To Expand JICA-Funded SME Financing Initiative

- BRAC Bank has joined with the government-owned Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited (BIFFL) as a participating financial institution in a JICA-funded low-cost loan programme aimed at strengthening financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), especially in the food value chain. The partnership agreement was signed at BRAC Bank's Dhaka head office.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/brac-bank-biff-l-partner-to-expand-jica-funded-sme-financing-initiative-1766852638>

Non-life insurers barred from using agents as IDRA scraps commissions

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has completely banned the use of agents and any form of agent commission in the non-life insurance sector, effective January 1, 2026. Non-life insurers will no longer be able to conduct business through agents or pay them commissions, directly or indirectly, under the Insurance Act.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/non-life-insurers-barred-from-using-agents-as-idra-scraps-commissions-1766679475>

Bank Asia moves to clean up bad loans through equity injection over arbitrary rescheduling

- Instead of arbitrarily rescheduling bad loans, Bank Asia is requiring borrowers to inject equity, provide additional collateral, and agree to structured repayment plans. The bank's Managing Director said this disciplined approach aims to bring default loans down to a single-digit percentage by next year and strengthen asset quality.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bank-asia-moves-clean-bad-loans-through-equity-injection-over-arbitrary-rescheduling>

Fuel & Power

Hidden liabilities threaten to cripple Power Grid, outweigh assets

- State-run Power Grid has undisclosed liabilities which, if taken into account, would exceed the value of its assets and impair its ability to repay.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/hidden-liabilities-threaten-to-cripple-power-grid-outweigh-assets-1766511720>

Engineering

5G handset production hits 1 lakh again amid rollout

- Local manufacturing of 5G handsets crossed the one lakh mark in October for the second time since June 2024, as manufacturers grew optimistic following the commercial launch of 5G services by mobile operators.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/5g-handset-production-hits-1-lakh-again-amid-rollout-4066181>

Capital Market

Banking and blue-chip stocks lift DSE despite lower turnover

- After a brief period of profit-taking, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) experienced a rebound today (24 December), spearheaded by significant gains across blue-chip and banking shares.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/banking-and-blue-chip-stocks-lift-dse-despite-lower-turnover-1318406>

ACI director plans purchase of 1.6 lakh shares to raise stake

- Shusmita Anis, a director of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) PLC, has expressed her intention to buy 1,60,000 shares of the company, according to a disclosure published with the stock exchanges today (24 December).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-director-plans-purchase-16-lakh-shares-raise-stake-1318426>

RFL approves 23% dividend

- Rangpur Foundry Limited (RFL) has approved a 23 percent dividend for its shareholders for the financial year 2024-25 at the company's 45th annual general meeting (AGM), held on December 24 through a digital platform.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsecs-new-rules-put-31-closed-end-mutual-funds-risk-liquidation-conversion-1317556>

DSE seeks urgent data on broker investments in Beximco shares

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the country's premier bourse, has instructed all brokerage houses to urgently provide detailed information on investments in shares of Bangladesh Export Import Company, popularly known as Beximco Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-seeks-urgent-data-broker-investments-beximco-shares-1318396>

Revival plan shelved, Beximco factories to be put on open tender

- The interim government has decided to lease out debt-ridden Beximco factories through an open tender, shelving a near-final deal with the Japanese firm Revival to resume its textile unit, as lenders scramble to recover over Tk35,000 crore in defaulted loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/revival-plan-shelved-beximco-factories-be-put-open-tender-1319236>

Negative equity: 60% of brokers and merchant banks yet to submit action plans

- Although steps are underway to eliminate long-standing negative equity burdens, about 60% of brokerage firms and merchant banks have yet to submit action plans to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for adjustment and provisioning.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/negative-equity-60-brokers-and-merchant-banks-yet-submit-action-plans-1319156>

Safko Spinning's survival in doubt as auditor flags serious going-concern risks

- The auditor of Safko Spinning Mills Limited has raised serious doubts about the company's ability to continue as a going concern, citing deepening financial distress, prolonged production suspension and multiple compliance failures.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/safko-spinnings-survival-doubt-auditor-flags-serious-going-concern-risks-1319151>

Paid-up capital wiped out as BB finalises five Islamic banks merger, shareholders get nothing

- Bangladesh Bank has completed the merger of five Shariah-based banks by reducing their paid-up capital to zero, a move that has effectively wiped out the entire shareholding of investors and left thousands of small shareholders with no compensation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paid-capital-wiped-out-bb-finalises-five-islamic-banks-merger-shareholders-get>

Beximco Pharma trading suspended on London bourse

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals has announced that trading of its global depositary receipts (GDRs) on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) will be suspended from January 2, 2026, due to delays in publishing its annual financial results for the year ended June 30, 2025.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beximco-pharma-trading-suspended-london-bourse-4066186>

Auditor doubts Central Pharma's survival amid cash strain

- Stock investors of Central Pharmaceuticals have been unsettled after the auditor of the listed drug maker issued an adverse opinion, warning of significant uncertainty over the company's ability to continue operating as a business amid persistent financial distress and regulatory lapses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/auditor-doubts-central-pharmas-survival-amid-cash-strain-4066191>