

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	6,280.93
% change	-0.46%
DS30 Index	2,136.85
% change	-0.45%
DSES Index	1,358.67
% change	-0.44%
Turnover (BDT mn)	5,007.41
Turnover (USD mn)	45.73
% change	-31.91%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	34,313.01
% change	1.03%
S&P 500	4,373.50
% change	1.24%
Nikkei 225	32,713.11
% change	0.96%
FTSE 100	7,683.91
% change	0.07%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate

	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	110.00	110.00
EUR	117.17	117.21
GBP	134.61	134.66
INR	1.32	1.32

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
24-Sep-23	6.00 - 7.75	6.54
21-Sep-23	6.00 - 7.75	6.53

Source: BB

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	93.57	0.32%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	1,923.5	-0.09%
Cotton, USD/lb.	86.37	0.54%

Source: Bloomberg

International Economy

Oil ends week lower

Oil prices held steady on Friday but closed the week lower on profit-taking and as markets weighed supply concerns stemming from Russia's fuel export ban against demand woes from future rate hikes. Brent futures settled 3 cents lower at \$93.27 a barrel. It fell 0.3 percent in the week, breaking a three week streak of gains. US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) futures rose 40 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$90.03 a barrel, as US oil rig counts fell. The benchmark fell 0.03 percent for the week, the first decline in four weeks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-ends-week-lower-3427141>

Bangladesh Economy

Dollar rates raised to Tk110 for remitters, exporters

Banks have once again raised the official rate of the dollar by Tk0.50 for remittances, export proceeds, and import settlements amid volatility in the country's foreign exchange market. The new dollar rates are Tk110 for remittances and export proceeds and Tk110.50 for import settlements. This decision was made at a joint meeting of the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (Bafeda) and the Association of Bankers' Bangladesh (ABB) on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/dollar-rates-raised-tk110-remitters-exporters-706518>

Record Bangladeshis hired in Italy this year, \$800m sent home

Italy, one of the more lucrative destinations for South Asian workers, is recruiting a record number of workers this year from Bangladesh, especially in agricultural farming, hospitality and manufacturing sectors. Around 14,434 workers have been employed in various industries in Italy from Bangladesh till 20 September 2023, already the highest in a single year, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). The Mediterranean nation in 2023 is hiring a total of 82,705 seasonal and non-seasonal workers from 33 non-EU countries, including Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/record-bangladeshis-hired-italy-year-800m-sent-home-706554>

Liquidity squeeze to banks begins

Liquidity funnelling into commercial banks is getting squeezed as the central bank begins curtailing money supply in the economy to contain nagging inflation. As part of the latest move, the government auction committee on risk-free investment instruments did not accept all the bids placed at Sunday auction by the commercial banks for 7-day-tenure liquidity facility at the REPO rate. The banks' bidding was especially for maintaining SLR and CRR with the regulator against their banking operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/liquidity-squeeze-to-banks-begins-1695577371>

Cenbank fixes forward forex rate

The central bank fixed the forward foreign currency selling and buying rate on Sunday. From now on, banks can fix the rate of forward dollar by adding the maximum six months moving average rate of treasury bill (SMART) + 5% per year to the current dollar rate. At present, the SMART rate is 7.14%. Banks can charge a maximum of 12.14% additional with the present dollar rate in case of forward dollar purchase and sell.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-fixes-forward-forex-rate-706494>

Banks hold \$800m more in August YoY on cautious repayments

Banks held \$800 million more in their vaults in August than in the same month last year, reflecting their prudent approach regarding forthcoming payment obligations. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, the total gross dollar holdings of banks stood at \$5.81 billion at the close of August this year, 15.74% up from \$5.02 billion held during the corresponding month last year. In other words, banks have accumulated an additional \$800 million over the course of one year. However, the figure is approximately \$90 million lower, constituting a decrease of 1.56%, in comparison to July of the current year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-hold-800m-more-august-yoy-cautious-repayments-706514>

No scope to settle trade in Russian ruble: Cenbank

Bangladesh has no scope to settle trade in Russian currency as there is no currency swap arrangement between the two nations for this purpose. However, the Russian embassy in Dhaka in a recent post on its official X (formerly Twitter) account said that the Russian government has approved a list of more than 30 friendly and neutral countries, banks, and brokers that will be allowed to trade in the Russian currency and derivatives market. Bangladesh is among the countries on this list. The central bank of Bangladesh (BB) has no agreement with Russia about trading in the Russian currency, ruble, and therefore it is not official, according to the Executive Director of BB. The Bangladesh Bank can trade only in the official currency which is approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a reserve currency.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/no-scope-settle-trade-russian-ruble-cenbank-706546>

Capital Market

Stocks dip to one-month low amid US visa restriction woes

Dhaka stocks tumbled on Sunday as investors went for heavy sell-offs right from the opening owing to the uncertain market momentum stemming from various macroeconomic and political concerns, notably the restrictions on US visas of Bangladeshi individuals. DSEX, the broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), declined by 0.46% or 28.8 points to close at 6,281, the lowest since 24 August. Issues like slower remittance inflow and resurging political uncertainties following the US visa restriction on undisclosed Bangladeshi individuals caused stock

investors unnerved after a decent recovery of the indices over the last month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-dip-one-month-low-amid-us-visa-restriction-woes-706462>

Govt wants Submarine Cable shares at rate 66% lower than market price

The Posts and Telecommunications Division of the government wants the shares of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) against the share money deposit at a 66% lower rate than the prevailing market price on the Dhaka bourse. According to the company's Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) filing on Sunday, BSCCL will issue 2.21 crore shares against the government's share money deposit of Tk166 crore. The shares will be issued at Tk75 apiece, including a premium of Tk65, as per a recent decision of the government. On Sunday, BSCCL shares closed at Tk218.9 each at the DSE.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-wants-submarine-cable-shares-rate-66-lower-market-price-706526>