

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	6,276.17
% change	-0.20%
DS30 Index	2,135.49
% change	-0.23%
DSSES Index	1,359.92
% change	-0.27%
Turnover (BDT mn)	5,395.82
Turnover (USD mn)	48.83
% change	-2.76%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Economy

Oil prices ease as aid convoys arrive in embattled Gaza Strip

Oil prices slid more than \$1 on Monday as diplomatic efforts grew over the weekend to contain a conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, amid worries of a wider confrontation in the oil-rich region and pressure on supplies. Brent crude futures LCOc1 fell 67 cents to \$91.49 a barrel, as of 0203 GMT, having lost \$1.02 to \$91.14 a barrel earlier in the session. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures CLc1 lost 72 cents to trade at \$87.36 a barrel, after sliding \$1.72 to \$87.03 a barrel earlier on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/global-economy/oil-prices-ease-aid-convoys-arrive-embattled-gaza-strip-724814>

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	33,302.00
% change	0.53%
S&P 500	4,224.16
% change	-0.57%
Nikkei 225	31,044.84
% change	-0.69%
FTSE 100	7,402.14
% change	-1.30%

Source: Bloomberg

Bangladesh Economy

Cenbank revamps monetary policy committee to tackle inflation

The Bangladesh Bank has revamped its monetary policy committee to include external experts in a bid to tackle inflation, which has been above 9% since March. The move came in line with the recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to strengthen monetary control and price stability. The committee, which will be chaired by the central bank governor, will have seven members, including three external experts from academia and the private sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/central-bank-incorporates-outsiders-monetary-policy-committee-first-time-724646>

Exchange rate

	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	110.50	110.50
EUR	117.05	117.07
GBP	134.36	134.44
INR	1.32	1.32

Source: BB

BB nod likely today for setting up digital banks

Bangladesh Bank is likely to give primary approval today for the formation of digital banks in the country. The central bank has already created a shortlist from applications for the formation of 52 digital banks. This shortlist will be placed at a meeting of the BB's board of directors at its Motijheel headquarters in the capital today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-nod-likely-today-setting-digital-banks-3449321>

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
20-Oct-23	7.00 - 8.50	7.66
19-Oct-23	6.75 - 8.50	7.70

Source: BB

Spinners left in the lurch

Many garment makers in Bangladesh are not honouring their primary contracts for buying yarn from local spinners as work orders from abroad have decreased amid volatility in the global economy. As of yesterday, 50 garment makers were yet to formalise their proforma invoice (PI) as a letter of credit (LC). The PI is a primary agreement made between buyers and sellers before the delivery of goods, which is yarn in this case, while the LC is the final purchase agreement based on the PI.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/spinners-left-the-lurch-3450486>

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	91.33	-0.90%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	1,972.95	-0.43%
Cotton, USD/lb.	81.8	-0.73%

Source: Bloomberg

Govt to import one more LNG cargo in Nov

Government will import one more liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo

from international spot market in November. State-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) has already received tender to purchase one spot LNG cargo for November 12-13 delivery after getting fresh approval from government high-ups, a senior Petrobangla official told the FE Sunday. The bid winner will supply the spot LNG cargo to Moheshkhali floating, storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-import-one-more-lng-cargo-in-nov-1697995633>

Capital Market

Indices fall amid lower turnover

The premier bourse witnessed a downturn as a significant sell-off of shares dominated trading activities on Sunday (22 October). DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), slipped by 12.83 points, and the turnover dipped by approximately 3% compared to the previous trading session. The day initially began on a positive note, with bargain hunters focusing on specific stocks, resulting in an upturn in the indices. However, as the trading session progressed, the trend reversed, and shares were increasingly sold off, leading to the eventual decline in the indices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/indices-fall-amid-lower-turnover-724382>

Commodity Exchange gets legal framework

The establishment of the country's first Commodity Exchange (CX) has now come under a legal framework with the publication of a gazette notification on its rules approved by the regulatory authorities. Following this recent development, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) has submitted an application to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for the registration of its CX. Initially, the CX will facilitate non-delivery cash settlements for three commodities: gold, cotton, and crude oil, with plans to transition to physical delivery settlement of the commodities in the future.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/commodity-exchange-gets-legal-framework-1697992088>

Square Pharma declares record dividend, Tk400cr expansion plan

Country's leading drug maker Square Pharmaceuticals PLC declared a record 105% cash dividend to its shareholders for the fiscal 2022-23 and decided to invest Tk400 crore to boost its production. In the previous 2021-22 fiscal year, the company paid a 100% cash dividend to its shareholders. In a board meeting on Sunday, Square Pharma's board of directors announced the said dividend and approved a Tk400 crore investment for Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE), capital machinery and lands for future expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-pharma-declares-record-dividend-tk400cr-expansion-plan-724662>