

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	6,277.89
% change	0.03%
DS30 Index	2,136.23
% change	0.03%
DSES Index	1,361.47
% change	0.11%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,387.30
Turnover (USD mn)	39.70
% change	-18.69%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	33,308.00
% change	0.02%
S&P 500	4,262.00
% change	0.90%
Nikkei 225	31,419.60
% change	1.21%
FTSE 100	7,389.70
% change	-0.17%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	110.50	110.50
EUR	117.07	117.08
GBP	134.36	134.44
INR	1.32	1.32

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
23-Oct-23	7.75 - 8.50	7.96
22-Oct-23	7.00 - 8.50	7.66

Source: BB

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	88.12	-3.51%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	1,973.53	0.03%
Cotton, USD/lb.	82.95	1.41%

Source: Bloomberg

International Economy

Oil prices broadly stable

Oil prices were broadly stable on Tuesday following the previous session's dip after a flurry of economic data from Germany, the wider euro zone and Britain sketched a bearish picture which could weigh on oil demand. Brent crude futures were up 9 cents, or 0.1 percent, at \$89.92 a barrel by 0847 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures inched up 4 cents, or 0.05 percent, to \$85.53 a barrel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-prices-broadly-stable-3452046>

Dollar rises as US business activity ticks up in October

The dollar rose against a basket of currencies on Tuesday as a slew of fresh economic data highlighted the strength of the US economy relative to the United Kingdom and the European Union. US business output ticked higher in October as the manufacturing sector pulled out of a five-month contraction on a pickup in new orders, and services activity accelerated modestly amid signs of easing inflationary pressures, according to S&P Global. It was the latest sign the US economy is withstanding the surge in interest rates, spurred by the Federal Reserve's campaign to beat back inflation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/dollar-rises-us-business-activity-ticks-october-726174>

Bangladesh Economy

Local govt outspends all other ministries, divisions

Ahead of the upcoming national elections, the local government division (LGD) has spent more money from the annual development programme (ADP) than other major ministries and divisions. In the July-September period of the current fiscal year of 2023-24, the LGD managed to spend Tk 4,376 crore, a 24 percent increase compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED). A majority of the top 15 allocated ministries and divisions could not spend more than the previous year in the same period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/local-govt-outspends-all-other-ministries-divisions-3451351>

Banks now banking on fee-based incomes

Many of Bangladesh's commercial banks, having core income-generating instruments under immense pressures, now focused on fee-based incomes under a changed strategy to navigate the crunch time. The change in the income-making approach to make their balance sheet sustainable comes in the wake of looming liquidity crunch in the banking industry because of the existing volatility in the country's macroeconomic situation, according to several bankers.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-now-banking-on-fee-based-incomes-1698171674>

Bandwidth import from India surges

Bandwidth imports from India have surpassed that from submarine cables due to a surge in internet usage, India's more attractive pricing and enhanced redundancy, and the saturation of Bangladesh's existing undersea cables' capacity. Total bandwidth usage now stands at about 5,000 Gbps and more than half of it -- about 2,700 Gbps -- comes through international terrestrial cable (ITC) licences that import bandwidth from India across land borders. The rest -- about 2,300 Gbps -- is supplied by the Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), which connects the country with two submarine cables, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/bandwidth-import-india-surges-3452066>

Sales of heavy-duty trucks fall by a third

Sales of heavy-duty commercial trucks in Bangladesh fell nearly 34 percent year-on-year in the January-September period this year due to shrinking economic activities and higher prices stemming from the devaluation of the local currency against the US dollar. According to data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, only 208 heavy-duty trucks were registered per month between January and September this year. That figure stood at 317 units per month in the same period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sales-heavy-duty-trucks-fall-third-3451331>

Small garment units in a tight spot

Small and medium-sized garment factories in Bangladesh are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their heads above water amid the rising cost of production and a fall in work orders from international clothing retailers and brands. A key cog of the apparel supply chain, SMEs are particularly vulnerable under the current volatile situation since their financial position is not that strong like their larger peers and the persistently low level of orders may force them out of business.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/small-garment-units-tight-spot-3451371>

Capital Market

BSEC, Bida showcase Bangladesh's investment potential in Paris

Bangladesh recently conducted a roadshow in France to actively promote investment opportunities, shedding light on the nation's remarkable development and its potential for investors. Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) jointly organised the event titled "The Rise of Bengal Tiger: Bangladesh-France Trade and Investment Summit" on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-bida-showcase-bangladeshs-investment-potential-paris-726050>

Grameenphone's profit shrinks despite more revenue in Sep quarter

The country's largest mobile operator Grameenphone has witnessed a 17.7% year-on-year drop in its profit for the July to September quarter of 2023, even though its revenue grew by 6.32%. According to the company's interim financial statements, its profit stood at Tk747.15 crore, and revenue at Tk4,109 crore in the July-September quarter this year. Its earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk5.53. The company stated in its financial statement that its profit declined because of a 64% increase in its finance expenses, and 15.3% increase in tax expenses during the quarter, compared to the previous year's September quarter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/grameenphones-profit-shrinks-despite-more-revenue-sep-quarter-726090>