

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,224.37
% change	0.46%
DS30 Index	1,921.06
% change	0.58%
DSES Index	1,166.10
% change	0.27%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,875.76
Turnover (USD mn)	39.97
% change	4.70%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,176.65
% change	0.00%
S&P 500	6,117.52
% change	0.00%
Nikkei 225	38,343.50
% change	-0.86%
FTSE 100	8,662.97
% change	0.00%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	122.00	122.00
EUR	127.59	127.61
GBP	154.09	154.12
INR	1.41	1.41

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
23-Feb-25	9.75 - 11.00	10.07
20-Feb-25	9.75 - 11.00	10.08

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	76.05	0.00%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,936.88	-0.06%
Cotton, USD/lb.	67.47	0.00%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.46% in the last trading day, closing at 5224.4 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 4.7% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Some of the major global indices were closed during the last trading day.
- One of the key Asian indices, the Nikkei 225 fell by 0.86%.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of the BDT fell against the EUR, GBP, and INR, and remained stable against the USD.
- The average overnight rate stood at 10.07%, standing between 9.75% and 11.00%.
- The market for oil futures and cotton were closed in the last trading day. The price of gold decreased by 0.06%.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Tax return filing soars with locally developed system

- ◆ A locally developed tax-return system enabled the National Board of Revenue (NBR in Bangladesh to achieve a remarkable success as the online system witnessed a nearly 300% increase in income-tax-return submissions for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- ◆ Developed by local private information technology company Synesis IT, the e-return system saw over 1.44 million taxpayers file returns online, compared to 526,000 in the previous year, said the company press statement.
- ◆ More than 1.86 million taxpayers have also registered for the service this fiscal year, marking a significant milestone in the country's digital tax transformation.
- ◆ NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan hailed the achievement, emphasising the need to sustain this momentum.
- ◆ The Chairman highlighted the system's role in encouraging taxpayers to file tax returns independently and reaffirmed NBR's commitment to relying on domestic software, which reduces foreign exchange outflow.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tax-return-filing-soars-with-locally-developed-system-1740331566#google_vignette

Repo facility awaits regulatory axe again

- ◆ Existing repo facilities are being squeezed further as the central bank is bent on phasing out its 28-day-tenure liquidity window in a move to make banks manage funds more efficiently.
- ◆ Updating the bankers about such facility-curtailing move, the monetary policy unit of Bangladesh Bank sits for a meeting with the treasury officials of the commercial banks at the BB headquarters, officials said.
- ◆ But bankers balk at the latest regulatory move on the monetary front, in a string of policy measures of recent times meant for streamlining the unkempt banking system left by the past regime.
- ◆ Bankers say such initiative will put more liquidity pressure on the commercial banks at a time when the banks are intensifying their focus on private-sector-credit growth because of the gradual fall in yields of government securities.
- ◆ According to officials concerned, the move is deemed not only to force commercial lenders to seriously focus on efficient fund management but also help in making transactions on the call-money market vibrant.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/repo-facility-awaits-regulatory-axe-again-1740330635>

Revised ADP set for 11.83% YoY lower

- ◆ The Planning Commission has given initial approval for a BDT 216,000 crore allocation for the Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) for the current fiscal year, marking an 11.83% year-on-year decrease.

- ◆ The revised plan will be presented for final approval at the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on 3 March, chaired by the chief adviser.
- ◆ Last fiscal year, the government spent BDT 196,111 crore, or 80% of the RADP allocation of BDT 245,000 crore.
- ◆ According to stakeholders, the implementation situation has worsened this fiscal year due to the July uprising and its aftermath.
- ◆ As a result, government investment through ADP will decline, affecting the rural economy and employment.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/revised-adp-set-1183-yoy-lower-1076536>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Bridge banks proposed to run failed banks

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank will be able to sell or liquidate weak banks by forming bridge banks financial institutions that temporarily take over a failed bank, according to the draft Bank Resolution Ordinance.
- ◆ Finalised by the Bangladesh Bank (BB), the draft was recently published on the Financial Institutions Division website of the Finance Ministry for public consultation.
- ◆ Bridge banks are designed to ensure seamless banking services while providing time to find a buyer for the troubled institution.
- ◆ Additionally, bridge banks act as isolators, separating distressed banks from the broader sector and absorbing them to prevent panic withdrawals or bank runs.
- ◆ Under the proposed legislation, the BB will have the authority to establish one or more bridge banks to run the critical and viable functions of distressed banks.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bridge-banks-proposed-run-failed-banks-3832141>

Textile

Experts call for accelerating energy transition in Bangladesh's RMG sector

- ◆ Major apparel-importing countries, including the European Union, are set to make the use of sustainable energy mandatory to ensure environmentally friendly production, according to a press release.
- ◆ As a result, experts have stressed that Bangladesh's ready-made garments (RMG) sector must act now to increase the use of renewable energy to remain competitive in the global market.
- ◆ At an event in Dhaka on Sunday, organised by Swisscontact Bangladesh, speakers emphasized the urgent need for energy transition in the RMG sector.

- ◆ The event was held to launch the 'InSPIRE: Initiative to Stimulate Private Investment for Resource Efficiency' project, supported by the Embassy of Sweden, and highlighted the importance of investment and technical support for renewable energy.
- ◆ Our goal is to strengthen this sector through sustainable investments, ensuring that the 'Made in Bangladesh' label becomes a global symbol of sustainability and quality, he added.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/experts-call-accelerating-energy-transition-bangladeshs-rmg-sector-1076096>

Energy

Gas tariff hike to raise import dependence, cut jobs

- ◆ If the government implements the proposed increase in natural gas tariffs, it could halt local production, increase import dependency, and lead to significant job losses, according to sector insiders.
- ◆ Dr Masrur, chairman and chief executive officer of PEB, warned that doubling gas prices, as proposed by the government, would severely impact the economy.
- ◆ He explained that higher gas prices would raise production costs in the manufacturing sector, erode competitiveness, and discourage new investments.
- ◆ Sectors like cement, steel, and ceramics would become more dependent on imports, further straining the financial sector.
- ◆ He also said increased imports would escalate the demand for foreign currency, adding to the economic pressure.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gas-tariff-hike-to-raise-import-dependence-cut-jobs-1740330868>

Govt directs minimum AC temp at 25°C to curb power demand

- ◆ The government has directed that air conditioners (ACs) in government and private offices, as well as residences, be set at a minimum temperature of 25 degrees Celsius to conserve energy during the upcoming summer and Ramadan.
- ◆ The Cabinet Division issued a circular in this regard today, which was sent to senior secretaries, secretaries, and heads of offices and agencies for implementation.
- ◆ With Ramadan, the summer season, and the irrigation period coinciding this year, electricity demand is expected to rise significantly.
- ◆ Maintaining AC thermostats at or above 25 degrees Celsius can help manage this demand effectively.
- ◆ All government, autonomous, statutory, and private organizations have been urged to implement this directive.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-directs-minimum-ac-temp-25degc-curb-power-demand-1076091>

Bangladesh to receive 40MW electricity from Nepal for 5 months

- ◆ Bangladesh is set to receive 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal via India for five months, starting from June to November 2025, under a tripartite agreement signed between Bangladesh, Nepal and India on October 3 last year.
- ◆ This was announced during a courtesy meeting between Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Ghanshyam Bhandari and Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin at the Secretariat on 23 February.
- ◆ The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral trade, electricity supply, connectivity and discussions regarding the upcoming Nepal Economic Summit.
- ◆ The Commerce Adviser emphasised the importance of strengthening connectivity to boost the economic development of both nations.
- ◆ Ambassador Bhandari described Nepal's relations with Bangladesh as historic and excellent.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/bangladesh-receive-40mw-electricity-nepal-5-months-1076051>

Capital Market

DSEX hits 2-month high on strong large-cap stock performance

- ◆ The Dhaka Stock Exchange's (DSE) benchmark index, DSEX, soared to a two-month high yesterday, driven primarily by robust gains in large-cap stocks.
- ◆ Key sectors such as banking, telecommunications, and energy led the rally, with heavyweight companies posting significant price increases, according to market insiders.
- ◆ The DSEX surged by 23 points, or 0.46%, to reach 5,224, marking its highest level in two months.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the blue-chip DS30 gained 11 points, or 0.58%, to close at 1,921.
- ◆ BAT Bangladesh, BRAC Bank, Beximco Pharma, and United Commercial Bank were key contributors to the rise in the benchmark index of the Dhaka bourse.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-hits-2-month-high-strong-large-cap-stock-performance-1076426>

Shipping Corporation plans to add 12 new vessels to its fleet

- ◆ Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), a state-owned listed company, has announced plans to purchase 12 new container vessels, each with a capacity of 2,500–3,000 TEUs.
- ◆ The company informed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) that the Planning Commission had already approved the purchase of six vessels from South Korea at a cost of USD 330.32 million.
- ◆ To facilitate the purchase, BSC signed a concept paper with South Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), which will conduct a feasibility study for the project.
- ◆ The company also stated that the project is subject to EDCF's approval.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shipping-corporation-plans-add-12-new-vessels-its-fleet-1076421>