

### Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,190.95
% change	0.32%
DS30 Index	1,890.28
% change	0.53%
DSES Index	1,162.13
% change	0.49%
Turnover (BDT mn)	3,380.68
Turnover (USD mn)	27.71
% change	0.42%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

### International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	41,911.71
% change	-2.08%
S&P 500	5,614.56
% change	-2.70%
Nikkei 225	36,310.00
% change	-1.80%
FTSE 100	8,600.22
% change	-0.92%

Source: Bloomberg

### Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	122.00	122.00
EUR	132.15	132.19
GBP	157.62	157.66
INR	1.40	1.40

Source: BB

### Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
10-Mar-25	9.50 - 11.00	10.00
9-Mar-25	9.75 - 11.00	10.01

Source: BB

### Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	69.28	-1.53%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,884.75	-0.89%
Cotton, USD/lb.	66.00	1.91%

Source: Bloomberg

## Market Summary

### Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.32% in the last trading day, closing at 5190.95 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 0.42% in the last trading day.

### Global Market

- The majority of the global indices performed negatively on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 2.08%, the S&P 500 fell by 2.7%, and the FTSE 100 fell by 0.92%.
- One of the key Asian indices, the Nikkei 225 fell by 1.80%.

### Key Macro Indicators

- The value of the BDT remained stable against the EUR, GBP, INR, and USD.
- The average overnight rate stood at 10.00%, standing between 9.50% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures fell by 1.53%, the price of gold fell by 0.89%, and the price of cotton rose by 1.91%.

## Bangladesh Macro Update

### Private sector urges for deferring LDC graduation by at least 2-3 years

- ◆ The country's private sector has urged the government to delay Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status by at least two to three years considering the prevailing global and local economic challenges.
- ◆ The calls were made during a focus group discussion on "Implementation of the STS for Smooth Transition from LDC Status," jointly organised by Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP), Economic Relations Division (ERD) and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI).
- ◆ DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed called for deferring the LDC graduation citing the various challenges the country is facing including the acute shortage of energy in the industrial sector, high inflation and high duty on import, high interest rate, procedural complexities in obtaining credit from banks and lack of access to credit to the private sector.
- ◆ DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed pointed to the country's sluggish economic growth, with GDP growth recorded at only 1.8% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year and manufacturing sector growth at just 1.43%.

#### News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/erd-asks-businesses-brace-ldc-graduation-impact-1089286>

### Japan lending Bangladesh \$581 million

- ◆ Japan is going to lend Bangladesh USD 581 million for improving power generation and ensuring food safety, officials said on 10<sup>th</sup> March, in aid to the interim government.
- ◆ The Economic Relations Division (ERD) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Japan are likely to sign two loan deals on March 25 to this effect MoF officials said.
- ◆ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the 45th Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) package would provide USD 386.72 million (8th tranche) loan for completing the Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-fired Power Project.
- ◆ Another USD 194.30 million would be confirmed for upgrading capacity of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) in ensuring the food quality and its safety for the people.
- ◆ The proposed USD 386.72 million loan will be the last tranche for the Matarbari coal-fired power project, which is already supplying 1200 megawatts (MW) of power into the national grid, he added.

#### News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/japan-lending-bangladesh-581-million-1741631092>

### Proper functioning of instts vital for sustainable reforms

- ◆ Ensuring proper functioning of institutions is vital for the country to sustain the benefits of reforms and achieve desired socio-economic goals, economist Prof Selim Raihan said.
- ◆ He said this while speaking at a discussion session titled 'Unveiling the Truth: The State of Bangladesh's Economy & Governance' organised by the Economics Study Center (ESC) of Dhaka University.
- ◆ He shared his experiences of working with committees responsible for White Paper and a Task Force on Bangladesh economy following the regime shift.

- ◆ Referring to the economic recovery of Sri Lanka, he said the Governor of the central bank was allowed to discharge his duties free from influence.
- ◆ Different government agencies including Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) were abused to provide inflated data on different economic indicators during the past regime, he said.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/proper-functioning-of-instts-vital-for-sustainable-reforms-1741631493>

**Sectoral Update**

**Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance**

**BB decides to end assured liquidity support for PD banks**

- ◆ Primary dealer (PD) banks come under a major regulatory move as the central bank has decided to discard the assured liquidity support (ALS) for them, officials said.
- ◆ Officials concerned at the Bangladesh Bank (BB) said the central bank introduced this liquidity-feeding window only for the PD banks in 2008 as they have the underwriting obligation to devolve any unsubscribed bidding in the auctions of government securities (G-Sec).
- ◆ As the PD banks have not been going through any devolvement over a period of more than three financial years (FYs), the continuation of ALS would be irrational and have a detrimental effect on ensuring a level playing field for all banks, they said.
- ◆ Apart from that, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was critical about the continuation of the facility for the 24 PD banks during this non-devolvement regime and suggested the government abolish it as part of the USD 4.70 billion lending package to stabilise the country's macroeconomic situation.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-decides-to-end-assured-liquidity-support-for-pd-banks-1741631414>

**Cenbank eases exit policy for loan recovery, lowers down payment to 5%**

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank, in an effort to encourage loan repayments, has relaxed some of the terms of its exit policy for recovering defaulted or unpaid loans, including halving the required down payment for applications seeking exit facilities.
- ◆ A circular in this regard was issued by the central bank's Banking Regulation and Policy Department (BRPD) on 10 March.
- ◆ The change comes as the previous policy failed to generate the expected response from borrowers.
- ◆ From now, the required down payment is 5%, down from the previous 10%.
- ◆ According to the circular, borrowers seeking exit facilities for various types of classified or unpaid loans can now apply with a 5% down payment.

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-eases-exit-policy-loan-recovery-lowers-down-payment-5-1089356>

## Textile

### 200 RMG factories at risk of labour unrest

- ◆ At least 200 garment factories in different industrial zones are at risk of labour unrest as, according to law-enforcement agencies, these units might fail to pay wages and festival allowances before Eid-ul-Fitr.
- ◆ Meantime, factory owners of all industries at a Tripartite Consultative Committee meeting last Thursday were instructed to pay festival allowances by 20th Ramadan.
- ◆ Owners would discuss with workers and decide on the payment of wages for March over partial or full payment based on the factories' capacity, according to Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).
- ◆ Ms Nazma, president of the Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said that they also urged the factory owners not to terminate any worker and announce lay-off of units before the festival.
- ◆ At least 825 out of 2,107 units listed with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) are yet to pay wages for February.

#### News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/200-rmg-factories-at-risk-of-labour-unrest-1741631532>

## Energy

### US oil major plans expanding hold on BD gas blocks

- ◆ US oil-major Chevron bids for developing Bangladesh's onshore hydrocarbons block-11 and attain exploration rights over an extended area of block-12 to discover fresh gas to help the country mitigate energy crisis.
- ◆ The oil-gas blocks are situated in gas-rich Surma Basin of the country's northeastern region that contributes much of the fossil fuel in the national gas grid.
- ◆ Chevron Bangladesh has submitted an unsolicited proposal recently to state-run Petrobangla to develop these two potential onshore areas, according to a senior Petrobangla official.
- ◆ Chevron officials wouldn't disclose anything about the price of natural gas it wants to sell to Petrobangla after production from there nor its investment plan to develop these new onshore areas.
- ◆ But sources said that the US company sought to link the gas price to the price of Brent Crude on the international market and demanded that the gas price should be 10% of the Brent Crude price, which will be variable.

#### News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/us-oil-major-plans-expanding-hold-on-bd-gas-blocks-1741631054>

## Capital Market

### Stocks surge amid efforts to stabilise regulatory environment

- ◆ The benchmark index of the country's premier bourse, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), witnessed a surge yesterday as investors reacted positively to a stakeholders' meeting with the stock market regulator.

- ◆ The meeting, aimed at addressing the ongoing turmoil within the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), spurred renewed activity in the market.
- ◆ The DSEX, the key index of the DSE, climbed 16 points to close at 5,190, while the blue-chip DS30 index rose by 9 points to settle at 1,890.
- ◆ On the sectoral front, the food sector led the way, contributing 16.3% to the DSE's total turnover, followed by textiles at 16.1% and pharmaceuticals at 15%.
- ◆ Orion Infusion topped the turnover chart, followed by Beach Hatchery, Alif Industries, and Lovello Ice-cream.

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-surge-amid-efforts-stabilise-regulatory-environment-1089436>

## **Factors behind recent increase in ownership stakes in companies**

- ◆ Sponsor-directors of some leading companies have been increasing their stake in their own firms at a time when institutional and general investors are selling shares, indicating that sponsors have confidence in the prospects of their companies.
- ◆ For example, three directors of Square Pharmaceuticals in recent stock exchange filings expressed their intention to purchase 4.5 million shares in total.
- ◆ The market value of the shares will be more than BDT 976 million at the current price of BDT 217 per share.
- ◆ Sponsors of the largest drug manufacturer had already bought more than 66 million shares between June and December last year, taking their stakes to 42.91% by the end of 2024 from 35.46% in June last year.
- ◆ Meanwhile, Apex Footwear chairman, ACI chairman, ACI managing director and a nominated director of ACI also purchased their own companies' shares in recent months.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/factors-behind-recent-increase-in-ownership-stakes-in-companies-1741629177>