

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,196.89
% change	0.26%
DS30 Index	1,911.56
% change	0.81%
DSES Index	1,166.29
% change	0.65%
Turnover (BDT mn)	5,042.61
Turnover (USD mn)	41.33
% change	19.70%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	42,583.32
% change	1.42%
S&P 500	5,767.57
% change	1.76%
Nikkei 225	37,984.00
% change	0.81%
FTSE 100	8,638.01
% change	-0.10%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	122.00	122.00
EUR	131.93	131.96
GBP	157.60	157.64
INR	1.42	1.42

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
24-Mar-25	8.80 - 11.00	9.85
23-Mar-25	9.75 - 11.00	10.02

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	72.37	1.06%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,010.01	-0.45%
Cotton, USD/lb.	65.42	0.23%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, rose by 0.26% on the last trading day, closing at 5196.89 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 19.7% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- The majority of the global indices had mixed performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 1.4%, the S&P 500 rose by 1.76%, and the FTSE 100 fell by 0.1%.
- One of the key Asian indices, the Nikkei 225 rose by 0.81%.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of the BDT remained stable against the USD, EUR, GBP, and INR.
- The average overnight rate stood at 9.85%, standing between 8.80% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures rose by 1.06%, gold prices fell by 0.45%, the price of cotton rose by 0.23%.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Foreign loan commitments drop \$4.84b amid rising repayments

- ◆ Loan disbursements and commitments from development partners dropped significantly in the first eight months of the fiscal year, while debt servicing increased, indicating that, as officials observe, the government is focusing on improving external financial management.
- ◆ According to Economic Relations Division (ERD) data, commitments for fresh loans fell by 67.3% year-on-year to USD 2.35 billion from USD 7.20 billion a year ago.
- ◆ In stark contrast, the debt repayments increased by 29.9% to USD 2.636 billion, principal repayment increased from USD 1.224 billion to USD 1.962 billion, and interest payments rose from USD 805.95 million to \$944 million.
- ◆ Disbursements by development partners declined by 17.3% to USD 4.13 billion in July-February.
- ◆ ERD officials said the interim government has decided to reduce foreign loans under the term loan strategy, resulting in decreased commitments from development partners.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-loan-commitments-down-673-repayments-299-1100706>

Bangladesh underperforms in zero-duty trade with China

- ◆ Bangladesh has hardly been able to utilise the generous zero-duty trade benefits offered by China due to a lack of product diversity, whereas Chinese imports have steadily risen, given the country's increasing reliance on a single sourcing destination.
- ◆ China has been the single largest trading partner for Bangladesh for many years, but imports from the country have far outweighed exports, with shipments from Bangladesh failing to cross even the one-billion-dollar mark.
- ◆ In the July-December period of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh imported goods worth USD 8.89 billion and exported goods worth USD 461.05 million, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).
- ◆ In the previous fiscal, the total import value from China was USD 16.63 billion whereas exports amounted to just USD 715.37 million.
- ◆ According to economists and business leaders, during Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus' upcoming visit to China, Bangladesh should hold negotiations to attract more Chinese investment in Bangladesh and minimise the trade gap.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-underperforms-zero-duty-trade-china-3856831>

Wider safety net to cover 10 lakh more next year

- ◆ The government will increase the number of beneficiaries of various social safety net schemes by at least 10 lakh from fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026, but allowances will see a small increase, although poor groups have been facing stubbornly high inflation for years.
- ◆ The finance ministry, after consultation with relevant ministries, has drafted a plan to increase the number of beneficiaries and the monthly allowance.

- ◆ The plan will be finalised at a budget-related government meeting next month, a senior finance ministry official said.
- ◆ From the next fiscal year, the monthly allowance will increase by only BDT 50 to BDT 100.
- ◆ Economists, during a pre-budget meeting with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, suggested increasing the monthly allowance of different social safety programmes.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wider-safety-net-cover-10-lakh-more-next-year-3856826>

FY26 budget to be realistic, welfare-oriented

- ◆ Budget will be realistic and welfare-oriented, Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said on 24th March in an indication of the continuity of the interim government's tight-fisted monetary stance.
- ◆ The adviser said he instructed the officials to work vigorously to fully utilise the budgetary allocations next year for the welfare of the people.
- ◆ Transparency and integrity have to be ensured in spending the budgetary allocations, according to Mr Ahmed.
- ◆ At the meeting the secretaries informed the finance adviser about the difficulties they faced while implementing the budget.
- ◆ However, when asked, the finance adviser declined to divulge to the media what specifically transpired in the budget-preparatory conclave.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fy26-budget-to-be-realistic-welfare-oriented-1742839854>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

28-day repo facility for banks ending on 10 April

- ◆ The central bank has decided to discontinue its 28-day repurchase agreement (repo) facility for commercial banks from 10 April.
- ◆ The central bank's Date Management Department issued a circular to this end on 24 March, which will mean that commercial banks can no longer borrow money from Bangladesh for a 28-day period.
- ◆ Once the facility is closed, the banks will be allowed to take loans from the Bangladesh Bank for periods of seven days and 14 days.
- ◆ Speaking to The Business Standard on condition of anonymity on the matter, a policy-making official of the central bank said that we have to accept some conditions to get a loan from the IMF and one of these conditions was to reduce the repo tools.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/28-day-repo-facility-banks-ending-10-april-1100976>

Banks, NBFIs asked to provide data of entities over financial frauds

- ◆ Banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) have received letters from the revenue authority asking them to provide information about fixed assets and transactions conducted by business groups infamous for financial scams committed during the ousted regime.
- ◆ As many as 90 financial institutions received the letter for the second time on March 23 and a majority of them are listed on the stock exchanges.
- ◆ The National Board of Revenue (NBR) sought details of term deposits, savings instruments, current and debt accounts, foreign currency accounts, credit cards, locker or vault, or any other savings instruments tied to the business entities being investigated.
- ◆ The Department of National Savings and the Bangladesh Postal Department also received the order.
- ◆ One of the organisations under the scrutiny of the NBR over suspected tax evasion is S. Alam Group.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/banks-nbfis-asked-to-provide-data-of-entities-over-financial-frauds-1742837711>

Textile

344 RMG units yet to pay Eid bonus; 36 at high risk of default

- ◆ A total of 344 readymade garment factories have yet to pay bonuses ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- ◆ Factories were instructed to clear bonuses by the 20th of Ramadan and pay half of March's salary before the Eid vacation.
- ◆ RMG workers in Dhaka and Chattogram have protested over unpaid wages and benefits.
- ◆ BGMEA data shows that 83.67% of RMG factories, 1,543 in Dhaka and 220 in Chattogram had cleared bonuses by 24 March, while 98.53% of operational factories had cleared February wages.
- ◆ However, 84 factories have only paid part or no wages for March, with most stakeholders expecting these payments to be settled by the end of the week or before the Eid holidays.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/344-rmg-units-yet-pay-eid-bonus-36-high-risk-default-1101101>

Govt moves to halt yarn imports through land ports

- ◆ The government has initiated steps to ban the import of yarn through land ports to prevent misuse of the facility, as these ports lack the capacity to properly identify different categories of yarn, according to sources at the Ministry of Commerce.
- ◆ Ministry officials stated that the decision follows a request from textile millers, who have long argued that yarn imports through land ports undermine local industry.
- ◆ Instead, they proposed that yarn, a key raw material for the ready-made garment (RMG) industry, should be imported only through seaports.

- ◆ Apparel exporters have expressed concerns that restricting yarn imports through land ports could negatively impact small and medium-sized factories that rely on them for easier and more cost-effective access to raw materials.
- ◆ The sudden ban will put additional pressure on small factories, particularly those in border areas, which depend on land ports for quick and flexible imports.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/govt-moves-halt-yarn-imports-through-land-ports-1100791>

Capital Market

Eastern Bank declares 35% dividend for 2024

- ◆ Eastern Bank has recommended a 35% dividend comprising 17.50% cash and 17.50% stock to its shareholders for the year of 2024.
- ◆ The dividend declaration came after its board meeting held on Monday.
- ◆ To approve the dividend, the bank will conduct the annual general meeting on 21 May, and the record date is 23 April.
- ◆ Last year, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 4.86, which was BDT 4.51 a year ago.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-bank-declares-35-dividend-2024-1101166>

Large-cap stocks drive DSE index up amid cautious trading

- ◆ The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) edged higher on 24 March, propelled by strong performances in large-cap stocks, even as investor sentiment remained cautious.
- ◆ The DSEX, the key index of the premier bourse, jumped by 13 points to reach at 5,196, while the blue-chip DS30 index gained by 15 points to close at 1,911.
- ◆ Among the traded issues, 172 stocks advanced, 151 declined, and 73 remained unchanged.
- ◆ Market turnover jumped by 20% to reach BDT 504 crore compared to the previous session.
- ◆ Although market indices witnessed a brief spike by the start of today's session, market momentum soon moderated as investors maintained a cautious stance amid ongoing uncertainty over the market outlook.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/large-cap-stocks-drive-dse-index-amid-cautious-trading-1101111>

DSE to remain closed March 30 to April 3 for Eid-ul-Fitr

- ◆ The stock market is going for a full one-week vacation for the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.
- ◆ The vacation will begin on March 30 and will continue until April 3.
- ◆ The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will have its last trading session on March 27 before the vacation and it will then resume trading on April 6.
- ◆ It will follow the usual trading hour post-Eid, from 10:00am to 2:20pm.

◆ Currently, trading is conducted from 10:00am to 1:50pm.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-to-remain-closed-march-30-to-april-3-for-eid-ul-fitr-1742837832>