

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,332.07
% change	-0.43%
DS30 Index	2,061.74
% change	0.17%
DSES Index	1,158.39
% change	-0.53%
Turnover (BDT mn)	8,053.99
Turnover (USD mn)	65.49
% change	-6.89%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,837.56
% change	-0.14%
S&P 500	6,389.77
% change	0.02%
Nikkei 225	40,808.50
% change	-1.60%
FTSE 100	9,081.44
% change	-0.43%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	122.89	122.98
EUR	142.40	142.53
GBP	164.12	164.29
INR	1.42	1.42

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
26-Jul-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99
25-Jul-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	69.32	2.30%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,312.62	-0.63%
Cotton, USD/lb.	68.34	0.16%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, fell by 0.43% on the last trading day, closing at 5,332.07 points.
- The daily turnover decreased by 6.89% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- The majority of the global indices showed mixed performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.14%, the S&P 500 rose by 0.02%, and the FTSE 100 fell by 0.43%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, fell by 1.60% on the last trading day.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT depreciated against USD and INR, appreciated against EUR and GBP.
- The average overnight rate was 9.99%, standing between 9.70% and 11.00%.
- The oil futures increased by 2.30%, gold spot decreased by 0.63% and cotton increased by 0.16% on the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Repayment eats up half of FY25 foreign aid

- ◆ Bangladesh spent almost half of its FY25 foreign-aid receipts on repaying its external loans, officials said on Monday.
- ◆ The government secured USD 8.11 billion in loans and repaid USD 4.087 billion in this period, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) data showed.
- ◆ The repayment was the highest in Bangladesh's history.
- ◆ In the previous FY24, the medium- to long-term loan repayment was recorded at USD 3.37 billion.
- ◆ Three years back, Bangladesh's debt servicing cost was half the FY25 figure.
- ◆ The government repaid USD 2.02 billion in FY22 and USD 2.67 billion in FY23 against the outstanding loans, the ERD statistics showed.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/repayment-eats-up-half-of-fy25-foreign-aid-1753722012>

Foreign debt surges to \$74b in FY25, driven by record budget support loans

- ◆ Bangladesh's foreign debt burden rose to USD 74.34 billion at the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, an 8% increase compared to the previous year, driven largely by a record USD 3.41 billion in budget support loans from international development partners.
- ◆ In comparison, at the end of FY24, the country's external debt stood at USD 68.82 billion.
- ◆ Over the past five years, this debt has increased by 46%, rising from USD 50.88 billion in 2020-21.
- ◆ Despite the government's restrained approach to new borrowing for mega projects, the budget support from development partners, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, was taken in a bid to stabilise the macroeconomic situation of the country and support foreign reserves, according to Economic Relations Division (ERD) officials.
- ◆ This was the highest amount of budget support received in a single year and the previous record was set in FY22 at USD 2.6 billion.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-debt-surges-74b-fy25-driven-record-budget-support-loans-1199246>

Bangladesh eyes 10-20% tariff in final US talks

- ◆ The Bangladeshi delegation left for the US yesterday to engage in the third and final round of negotiations with the Trump administration, seeking to lower a new tariff rate on the country's products.
- ◆ The negotiations are scheduled to begin on July 29 and continue until July 31, whereas a 35% tariff is set to be imposed on Bangladeshi products entering the American markets from August 1.
- ◆ We are hopeful of a much lower tariff rate as the negotiations held to date have been in a congenial atmosphere, according to Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman.

- ◆ The tariff rate is likely to be in the range of 10% to 20%, as has been the case for some countries that have been able to avail revised tariff rates.
- ◆ For instance, Vietnam was able to settle on 20%, Indonesia and the Philippines 19%, Japan 15%, the UK 10%, and the European Union (EU) 15%.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-eyes-10-20-tariff-final-us-talks-3950206>

Importing more soybeans from US could ease Trump tariffs

- ◆ Increasing soybean imports from the United States could help narrow the trade gap between Bangladesh and its biggest single-nation apparel market, according to an American industry group.
- ◆ And this may ultimately help ease the 35% additional tariff on Bangladeshi goods entering the US, said Kevin Roepke, regional director for South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa at the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC).
- ◆ Roepke, who also sits on the board of the US-Bangladesh Business Council, pointed out that while the US is the largest foreign investor in Bangladesh and the top export destination for Bangladeshi garments, its presence in agricultural trade remains limited.
- ◆ In an interview with The Daily Star, he described soybeans and soybean meal as the "lowest-hanging fruit" for reducing the USD 6 billion trade gap.
- ◆ He also added that just soybeans and soybean meal alone could account for \$1 billion in trade annually.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/importing-more-soybeans-us-could-ease-trump-tariffs-3950186>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Cenbank to issue new digital bank licences in August: Governor

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank is set to open the application process for digital bank licences in August, according to Governor Ahsan H Mansur.
- ◆ In an exclusive interview with TBS, Governor Mansur confirmed that entities that previously applied for a digital banking licence would be eligible to reapply.
- ◆ While a definitive number of licences to be issued remains undisclosed, the governor indicated that the strength of the applications would determine the final figure.
- ◆ He emphasised that potential digital bank operators must have the capacity to invest between BDT 2,000 crore and BDT 3,000 crore.
- ◆ He also added that success in digital banking requires a long-term vision, for example, it took bKash 12 years to become profitable.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-issue-new-digital-bank-licences-august-governor-1199241>

Pharmaceutical

Heavy import reliance leaves pharma industry vulnerable

- ◆ Local medicine manufacturers can meet almost the entire domestic demand and export to as many as 160 countries, given that supplies of raw materials come from China and India.
- ◆ But without these imported ingredients, the 45-year-old pharmaceutical industry cannot produce even something as basic as Esomeprazole, a commonly used tablet to treat heartburn.
- ◆ Industry insiders say it is high time Bangladesh invested in the development of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) to reduce its annual import bill of roughly USD 1.3 billion, improve resilience, and ensure long-term growth.
- ◆ Meanwhile, health economists say delays in building API capacity could lead to patent-related issues.
- ◆ Bangladesh currently enjoys a patent waiver as a least developed country, but that exemption will end when the country graduates from the LDC club in November next year.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/heavy-import-reliance-leaves-pharma-industry-vulnerable-3950226>

Textile

US tariffs could deepen inequality in global RMG, warns AFWA

- ◆ The Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA), a coalition of trade unions representing garment workers across Asia, has condemned the recent imposition of US tariffs on apparel imports, warning that the move could trigger a humanitarian crisis and exacerbate inequality in the global garment industry.
- ◆ In a statement issued on 28 July, the coalition also called for brand accountability, stating that companies profiting from outsourced production cannot remain silent when tariff changes lead to factory closures and mass layoffs.
- ◆ The US government's recent imposition of tariffs on apparel imports from Asia endangers the livelihoods of millions of garment workers, predominantly women, who are already earning poverty-level wages, according to the statement.
- ◆ Drawing parallels with the Covid-19 pandemic, when global brands walked away from responsibilities, leading to widespread layoffs, unpaid wages, factory closures, and increased gender-based violence and harassment, AFWA warned that history risks repeating itself unless action is taken to shield workers from the fallout of geopolitical tensions.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/us-tariffs-could-deepen-inequality-in-global-rmq-warns-afwa-1753722433>

Energy

JERA's 745MW Meghnaghat plant goes live

- ◆ JERA Meghnaghat Power Limited (JMPL) has begun commercial operation of one of the largest and most efficient gas-fired power plants in Bangladesh.

- ◆ The company announced the development in a statement issued on 28th July, marking a major milestone in its commitment to bolstering Bangladesh's energy security and driving economic growth.
- ◆ This combined-cycle gas-turbine (CCGT) power plant at Meghnaghat in Narayanganj has a gross generation capacity of 745 megawatts (MW) and a net output of 718 MW.
- ◆ The state-of-the-art power station is set to supply up to 5% of Bangladesh's peak electricity demand.
- ◆ Electricity generated from the plant will be sold to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) under a long-term power purchase agreement spanning 22 years from the date of commercial operation.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jeras-745mw-meghnaghat-plant-goes-live-1753721891>

Capital Market

Dhaka stocks fall for second day

- ◆ The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange closed lower on 28th July, extending its decline for the second consecutive day.
- ◆ The DSEX, the main index of the bourse, lost 22.76 points, or 0.42% to settle at 5,332.06.
- ◆ The other indices had mixed performance before the end of the day's trading.
- ◆ The Shariah-compliant DSES declined 0.52% to 1,158.38.
- ◆ The DS30, comprising the blue-chip shares, gained 1.51% to close at 2,061.74.
- ◆ Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, hit BDT 805.39 crore, down from BDT 865.04 crore in the previous session.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-stocks-fall-second-day-3949816>

Robi posts 134pc Q2 profit surge on operational efficiency

- ◆ Robi Axiata posted a remarkable 134% year-on-year surge in profit to BDT 2.57 billion for the second quarter to June this year amid challenging macroeconomic climate and tough market competition.
- ◆ Consolidated earnings per share (EPS) jumped to BDT 0.49 in the April-June quarter this year from BDT 0.21 in the same quarter a year ago, according to Robi's un-audited financial statements published on Monday after a board meeting.
- ◆ Robi registered a 2% de-growth in revenue year-on-year to BDT 25.55 billion in the quarter to June this year.
- ◆ This indicates that the mobile network operator is yet to return to its pre-uprising level of performance last year.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/robi-posts-134pc-q2-profit-surge-on-operational-efficiency-1753719688>