

### Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,314.33
% change	-0.02%
DS30 Index	2,057.16
% change	0.29%
DSES Index	1,155.82
% change	0.29%
Turnover (BDT mn)	7,048.90
Turnover (USD mn)	58.01
% change	5.76%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

### International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,922.27
% change	1.04%
S&P 500	6,466.58
% change	0.32%
Nikkei 225	43,077.00
% change	0.84%
FTSE 100	9,165.23
% change	0.19%

Source: Bloomberg

### Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	121.45	121.52
EUR	142.15	142.28
GBP	164.87	164.98
INR	1.39	1.39

Source: BB

### Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
13-Aug-25	9.60 - 11.00	9.99
12-Aug-25	9.60 - 11.00	9.98

Source: BB

### Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	65.63	-0.74%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,362.85	0.50%
Cotton, USD/lb.	67.73	-0.97%

Source: Bloomberg

## Market Summary

### Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, fell by 0.02% on the last trading day, closing at 5,314.33 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 5.76% on the last trading day.

### Global Market

- The majority of the global indices showed positive performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 1.04%, the S&P 500 rose by 0.32%, and the FTSE 100 rose by 0.19%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, rose by 0.84% on the last trading day.

### Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT depreciated against the USD, EUR, GBP and INR.
- The average overnight rate was 9.99%, standing between 9.60% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures decreased by 0.74%, the price of gold spot increased by 0.50% and the price of cotton decreased by 0.97% on the last trading day.

## Bangladesh Macro Update

### BoP reverses into \$3.4 billion surplus

- ◆ Bangladesh sees its deficit balance of payments (BoP) reverse into around USD 3.4-billion surplus in fiscal year 3025 after three financial years, in early signs of much-needed economic rebound.
- ◆ Officials and economists hail record remittance and steady growth in export receipts against import contraction for the turnaround in the BoP situation.
- ◆ After the end of the last financial year (FY'25), the country's BoP registered a surplus of around USD 3.40 billion in an upswing from USD 4.30-billion deficit a year ago, according to July-June FY'25 balance sheet on payments released Wednesday by Bangladesh Bank (BB).
- ◆ Last time the economy of USD 460 billion saw surplus in overall balance of USD 9.27 billion was during the covid-19 pandemic time in FY'21.
- ◆ Afterwards, the country's overall balance swerved into a negative territory covering the subsequent three consecutive years, (USD 6.65billion in FY'22, USD 8.22billion in FY'23 and USD 4.30billion in FY'24).
- ◆ The major driving force significantly improving the BoP in FY'25 was remittance that grew around 27% to USD 30.33 billion from previous year's count of USD 23.91 billion.

#### News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bop-reverses-into-34-billion-surplus-1755108783>

### Local businesses struggle to secure loans from financial institutions, Policy Exchange survey finds

- ◆ Many local businesses in Bangladesh face significant obstacles when seeking loans from formal financial institutions, according to findings in a Policy Exchange Bangladesh survey.
- ◆ The findings, drawn from advisory firm's Municipality Competitiveness Index (MCI), was presented today at a high-level roundtable in Dhaka titled "Unlocking Business Opportunities and Access to Finance: Insights from the Municipal Competitiveness Index (MCI)".
- ◆ The event was convened by Policy Exchange Bangladesh in collaboration with the PRABRIDDHI project of Swisscontact.
- ◆ The MCI is Bangladesh's first business environment index designed specifically for municipalities, reflecting the needs and perceptions of the private sector.
- ◆ The index is a collaborative effort between Policy Exchange Bangladesh and PRABRIDDHI and is supported by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida).

#### News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/local-businesses-struggle-secure-loans-financial-institutions-policy-exchange-survey-finds>

### No real relief for the poor

- ◆ Over the past year, the overall economy has shown signs of recovery, yet the queues before trucks selling subsidised food have not shortened.

- ◆ In the shadow of macroeconomic improvement, hunger still bites as hard as ever.
- ◆ The World Bank estimates that the number of the extreme poor was 95 lakh in 2022 and will reach 1.5 crore this year.
- ◆ For those living on USD 2.15 or less a day, more than 9% inflation for more than two years has meant hunger, and in some cases, starvation.
- ◆ Others have tried to cope with soaring food and non-food prices by cutting nutrition, skipping medical care and taking children out of school. In Dhaka and across other districts, such stories are far from rare.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-real-relief-the-poor-3962196>

## Bangladesh still not ready for LDC graduation

- ◆ Bangladesh is still not fully prepared to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status, as key economic and social indicators reported by the previous administration did not match the reality on the ground, said Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhtar on 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- ◆ The data on gross domestic product, personal income, maternal health, and other social indicators published during the previous administration did not reflect the reality, she said.
- ◆ The adviser made the comments as the chief guest at a meeting, titled "Transition as a developing country: determining the future of Bangladesh and careful reconsideration of bilateral free trade agreements", organised by the Citizen Initiative and People's Health Movement in Dhaka.
- ◆ While official figures suggest Bangladesh is on track for LDC graduation, the reality is that implementation falls short, she said.
- ◆ Bangladesh is scheduled to attain developing country status in November 2026, and the interim government must prepare accordingly, according to the adviser.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-still-not-ready-ldc-graduation-3961906>

## Sectoral Update

### Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

## Bank Company Act: BB moves to cap family directors at 2, cut directors' tenure to 6 years

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank is proposing a comprehensive overhaul of the country's banking laws, targeting long-standing governance failures caused by family dominance, political influence, and lax loan regulations.
- ◆ The proposed changes, part of a final draft amendment to the Bank Company Act, aim to strengthen corporate governance and restore stability to a sector crippled by rampant loan scams and rising non-performing loans over the past two decades.
- ◆ The central bank's most significant proposals focus on limiting the power of influential individuals and families.

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank (BB) proposes limiting the number of directors from a single family and their affiliates on bank boards from five to two, and cutting a director's continuous term from 12 years to six, in a move to curb family influence in bank management.
- ◆ Such dominance by certain board members has crippled the country's banking sector over the past 15–20 years, particularly during the Sheikh Hasina regime, leading to rampant loan scams, rising non-performing loans, and loss of public funds and trust.

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-company-act-bb-moves-cap-family-directors-2-cut-directors-tenure-6-years>

**Telecommunication**

**Garment sector eager to import man-made fibres from US**

- ◆ After announcing a major plan to import cotton from the United States to reduce the trade deficit, Bangladesh's garment sector is now also keen to increase its imports of man-made fibres such as polyester and nylon from the US, a sector currently dominated by China.
- ◆ Leaders of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) met with a US Embassy delegation in Dhaka on 13 August, and expressed interest in importing man-made fibres, if produced by the US textile sector, according to a BGMEA press release.
- ◆ BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu and other senior RMG leaders were present at the meeting.
- ◆ In response to BGMEA's interest, Foreign Commercial Service Attaché Paul G Frost said they would talk to relevant US government departments and provide further details, the release said.
- ◆ A key topic of the meeting was a recent US executive order that allows garments exported from Bangladesh to be proportionately exempt from a newly imposed additional 20% duty, provided that at least 20% of the raw materials used in these garments are sourced from the United States.

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/garment-sector-eager-import-man-made-fibres-us-1211776>

**Telecommunication**

**BTRC wants full autonomy**

- ◆ The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has opposed a government proposal granting it partial autonomy while keeping key regulatory powers, particularly over state-owned telecom companies, under the Posts and Telecommunications Division.
- ◆ In a detailed response on August 12, the commission argued that limited autonomy, with the ministry retaining control over state-owned operators, would undermine fair competition and perpetuate market distortions.
- ◆ The directive from the Posts and Telecommunications Division, citing Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, on July 28 asked BTRC to draft amendments that would provide the BTRC with a degree of autonomy but retain certain key decision-making powers within the ministry, particularly with regard to six state-owned telecom entities.

- ◆ Matters such as licence fees and revenue-sharing terms are not always black and white.
- ◆ If an issue affects government or finance ministry interests, the ministry will intervene, with inter-ministerial coordination through the division.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btrc-wants-full-autonomy-3962216>

**Capital Market**

**DSEX sheds 222 points over seven consecutive sessions**

- ◆ The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) indices fell for the seventh consecutive session, as cautious investors continued booking profits and shifting their investments to promising, undervalued stocks.
- ◆ Over the past seven sessions, the bourse's benchmark index, DSEX, has shed 222 points as part of a market correction.
- ◆ On 13 August, it slipped by 1 point to settle at 5,314, but turnover increased by 5.7% to BDT 705 crore, compared to BDT 667 crore in the previous session.
- ◆ However, blue-chip stocks fared better, with the DS30 index rising 6 points to close at 2,057, and the Shariah index gaining 3 points to finish at 1,156.

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-sheds-222-points-over-seven-consecutive-sessions-1211721>

**Global Islami Bank posts BDT 9.39b loss in April-June quarter**

- ◆ Shariah-based Global Islami Bank suffered a massive loss of BDT 9.39 billion in the April-June quarter of 2025.
- ◆ The reported loss is a stark reversal from the BDT 170 million profit posted in the same period last year, as a significant portion of its assets turned non-performing.
- ◆ Losses began just one year after going public: in 2022, it reported a BDT 0.96 billion profit, but in 2023 it posted a loss of BDT 21.52 billion.
- ◆ After the country's political changeover last year, disclosures became more transparent, revealing a surge in bad loans and a sharp rise in the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio, further deepening losses.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/global-islami-bank-posts-tk-939b-loss-in-april-june-quarter-1755108173>

**Ensure governance, stop violence to attract funds**

- ◆ Foreign investors at a conference on 13<sup>th</sup> August urged the interim government to ensure good governance, accountability, transparency, and policy continuity in the economy, as well as to prevent violence in order to draw more funds from abroad.
- ◆ According to Takao Hirose, more equity capital will be required to make the industry grow to the next stage, and this is where foreign investors can play a role.

- ◆ However, to attract foreign investment, foreign investors need assurance of proper framework, accountability, and governance.
- ◆ Speaking at the Foreign Investors Summit 2025, Hirose warned that while foreign investments could turbocharge growth, it could also be a disruptive force if they do not have the confidence to invest for the long-term.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ensure-governance-stop-violence-attract-funds-3962221>