

### Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,374.96
% change	-0.08%
DS30 Index	2,089.44
% change	0.15%
DSES Index	1,180.34
% change	0.23%
Turnover (BDT mn)	7,667.88
Turnover (USD mn)	62.95
% change	-19.61%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

### International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	45,631.74
% change	1.89%
S&P 500	6,466.91
% change	1.52%
Nikkei 225	42,633.29
% change	0.05%
FTSE 100	9,321.40
% change	0.13%

Source: Bloomberg

### Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	121.50	121.65
EUR	141.56	141.75
GBP	163.50	163.72
INR	1.40	1.40

Source: BB

### Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
21-Aug-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99
20-Aug-25	9.50 - 11.00	9.98

Source: BB

### Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	67.73	0.09%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,372.11	1.00%
Cotton, USD/lb.	68.01	0.88%

Source: Bloomberg

## Market Summary

### Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, was down by 0.08% on the last trading day, closing at 5,374.96 points.
- The daily turnover decreased by 19.61% 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 1.89%, the S&P 500 rose by 1.52%, and the FTSE 100 rose by 0.13%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, rose by 0.05% on the last trading day.

### Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT depreciated against the USD, EUR, and GBP, and appreciated against the INR.
- The average overnight rate was 9.99%, standing between 9.70% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures increased by 0.09%, the price of gold spot increased by 1.00% and the price of cotton increased by 0.88% on the last trading day.

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## Bangladesh Macro Update

### Bangladesh's export needs to diversify to mid-tech sectors

- ◆ Bangladesh should widen its export base within and beyond the ready-made garment industry by moving into mid-tier technology sectors, said Aditya Gahlaut, head of Asia for Global Trade Services at HSBC.
- ◆ In an interview with The Daily Star during his recent visit to Dhaka, he said exports are vital to the economy, not only for the foreign currencies but also for employment.
- ◆ He said the country now remains heavily dependent on cotton garments, while global demand is shifting towards man-made fibres.
- ◆ There is obviously a need to diversify within the ready-made garment space, and there are markets which are unexplored, whether it is Southeast Asia or the Middle East, according to Gahlau
- ◆ He argued that Bangladesh, like many other Asian economies, must look beyond garments and develop low to mid-tech industries.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-export-needs-diversify-mid-tech-sectors-3969216>

### FDI rose 20% in FY25

- ◆ Bangladesh saw a rebound in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, with net inflows reaching USD 1.71 billion.
- ◆ The figure marks an increase of nearly 20% compared with the previous year, following a three-year low in FY24 amid a heated political climate centred on the national elections and subdued investor confidence, according to central bank data.
- ◆ Economists and business leaders welcomed the recovery as a sign of renewed investor confidence.
- ◆ Still, they warned that the overall volume remains far below what is needed to support the country's long-term development ambitions.
- ◆ They said sustained reforms, political stability, reliable infrastructure, and investor-friendly policies are essential to attract new greenfield investments and diversify the FDI base.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fdi-rose-20-fy25-3968176>

### Meeting on proposed tariff hike at Ctg port tomorrow

- ◆ Shipping ministry has convened a high-level meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August to review Chattogram port's proposed new tariff structure with stakeholders, port users and officials amid differences between the port authority and users over the plan to increase charges.
- ◆ Shipping Adviser Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain is expected to preside over the meeting, which will be the second on the issue. Sources indicated that port users and stakeholders may raise strong objections against the tariff hike during the discussion.
- ◆ Earlier, a high-level meeting on the matter ended without any decision.

- ◆ On June 2, representatives from about 28 government and private organisations, including the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), attended the meeting at the shipping ministry chaired by the shipping adviser.
- ◆ Exporters, importers and trade bodies have already expressed concern over the CPA's plan to increase charges, saying the proposed rates are several times higher than what they had recommended and would ultimately add pressure on businesses.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/meeting-on-proposed-tariff-hike-at-ctg-port-tomorrow-1755970006>

## Bangladesh's exports stuck in EU, US orbit

- ◆ For years, policymakers and businesses have talked about diversifying the country's export basket and destinations.
- ◆ Yet little has changed. Despite generous government incentives, shipments rely heavily on a few products and markets.
- ◆ Readymade garments account for more than 82% of total export earnings, and the European Union and the United States together take over two-thirds of those exports.
- ◆ In the recently concluded fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, their combined share slipped only slightly to 62% of the record USD 48 billion-plus shipments, down from 65% three years earlier.
- ◆ Last year, the EU alone absorbed 44%, thanks largely to duty-free and quota-free access for least developed countries, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exports-stuck-eu-us-orbit-3969201>

## Ukraine urges BD not to receive grains 'stolen' by Russia

- ◆ The war-torn Ukraine's embroiled authorities have requested Bangladesh to take urgent measures to avert unloading 'looted' grains and importing goods originating from their Russian-occupied territories, sources said.
- ◆ In line with a letter from Kyiv, the Ukrainian embassy in India's New Delhi communicated its government's concerns second time regarding the alleged purchase of grain (wheat) stolen by Russia.
- ◆ Ukraine believes the discharge and distribution of yet another shipment of looted Ukrainian grains would "constitute the legitimization of systematic theft perpetrated by the occupying power and would amount to direct financial support by Bangladesh for the Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine."
- ◆ The European Union (EU) country has recently written to Bangladesh authorities concerned, including Bangladesh the high commission in New Delhi, to take step in this connection, the sources said.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ukraine-urges-bd-not-to-receive-grains-stolen-by-russia-1755970617>

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## Lift business booms, sans safety regulations

- ◆ Bangladesh sees lift market making quantum leaps, but largely unregulated to raising concerns about safety of users, according to industry-insiders.
- ◆ The market, worth around BDT 12 billion, is dominated by imports which account for around 70%.
- ◆ The rest is supplied by two local suppliers-Pran-RFL Group and Walton, who together hold around 30% of the market share.
- ◆ It remains completely unregulated and poses significant risks of accidents, according to Moinul Islam, chief operating officer of Property Lift, a strategic business unit of the Pran-RFL Group.
- ◆ Imports come from Finland, Spain and China, also there is another group of technicians who assemble and install lifts in buildings, and they use local parts and some imported parts for the hybridization.

### News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lift-business-booms-sans-safety-regulations-1755969286>

## Sectoral Update

### Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

## Banks' overseas branches see profit plunge amid import slowdown

- ◆ The aggregate net profit of Bangladeshi banks' overseas branches plummeted by nearly 37% in 2024 compared to the previous year, a direct consequence of a significant slowdown in imports.
- ◆ According to the Bangladesh Bank's Financial Stability Report 2024, the combined net profit of these overseas branches fell to USD 5.96 million in 2024, a 36.56% decrease from the USD 9.40 million achieved in 2023.
- ◆ This sharp decline in profitability also saw the aggregate return on assets (ROA) drop from 1.74% to 1.15%.
- ◆ Currently, two state-owned commercial banks, Sonali and Janata Bank, along with one private lender, AB Bank, operate a total of seven full-fledged overseas branches in the UAE and India.
- ◆ Social Islami Bank also has two branches in the UAE, although they were not operational as of the end of December 2024.

### News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-overseas-branches-see-profit-plunge-amid-import-slowdown-1217621>

## Capital Market

## Dhaka stocks rebound after two-week slump

- ◆ Dhaka stocks rose last week, rebounding from a two-week losing streak, while the turnover also increased, reflecting higher investor activity.
- ◆ The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), gained 24.71 points, or 0.46%, to close at 5,374.96, DSE data showed.

- ◆ The DS30, which tracks blue-chip stocks, advanced 0.75% to 2,089.44, while the DSES, comprising Shariah-compliant companies, edged up 1.48% to 1,180.34.
- ◆ Turnover, a key indicator of investor activity, stood at BDT 4,535.69 crore, up sharply from BDT 3,445.94 crore the previous week.

**News Source:**

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-stocks-rebound-after-two-week-slump-3968976>

## Offloading shares of profitable SoEs, 10 MNCs ordered

- ◆ A latest binding instruction comes for ministries concerned to act promptly for offloading shares of profitable state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and some multinational companies bearing government stakes for breathing life into limping bourses, sources said.
- ◆ For years, there has been no visible progress and development regarding such divestiture although the government made decisions and attempts to offload shares of such companies, they added.
- ◆ The offloading of shares of SoEs and such MNCs lies in limbo mainly due to procedural complexities despite the moves made so far, they also said.
- ◆ They have claimed that it is not possible to progress due to procedural bottlenecks and the dilly-dallying attitude of the authorities concerned despite the moves from government high-ups.
- ◆ Repeated reminders from government officials were given during the past regime.
- ◆ The finance ministry has now instructed four ministries, including ministries of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Commerce, and Industries, and power division for taking next course of action.

**News Source:**

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/offloading-shares-of-profitable-soes-10-mncs-ordered-1755885830>

## ICB seeks 5-year extension for BDT 900cr special fund

- ◆ Urging the extension, ICB, the state-owned institution mandated to develop the capital market and manage the special fund, has written to the finance ministry, according to officials involved with the fund.
- ◆ Considering the current capital market situation, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has urged the government to extend the BDT 900 crore special fund by another five years, until 2032.
- ◆ Over the last fiscal year, due to political instability, the capital market witnessed a bearish trend that wiped out significant market capitalisation and indices, according to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- ◆ Officials say the special fund, initially formed to rehabilitate small investors after the 2010 debacle, is now helping capital market intermediaries boost their investment capacity.

**News Source:**

[https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-5-year-extension-BDT\\_900cr-special-fund-1217716](https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-5-year-extension-BDT_900cr-special-fund-1217716)

## **Junk stocks lead weekly gains**

- ◆ A surge in low-performing and junk-category stocks dominated the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) last week, raising concerns among market analysts about the sustainability of such rallies and the risks for retail investors.
- ◆ According to the DSE weekly report, eight of the top ten gainers belonged to the "B" or "Z" categories, which are companies with poor track records, no dividends, or even closed operations.
- ◆ The top performer, Information Service Network (B category), soared 47.26% to BDT 72.60, despite having no calculable price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio as the company incurred loss in the first nine months of FY25.
- ◆ Other notable gainers included Meghna Cement (28.33%), Bangladesh Autocars (26.43%), which is trading at an abnormally high P/E of 926 times, and junk scrips like Shyampur Sugar (24.53%) and Zeal Bangla Sugar (22.59%).

**News Source:**

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/junk-stocks-lead-weekly-gains-1218791>