

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,389.17
% change	0.26%
DS30 Index	2,101.60
% change	0.58%
DSES Index	1,179.53
% change	-0.07%
Turnover (BDT mn)	12,002.63
Turnover (USD mn)	98.54
% change	56.53%

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	43,087.00
% change	1.06%
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
24-Aug-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.98
21-Aug-25	9.70 - 11.00	9.99

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	67.27	0.07%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,369.16	-0.09%
Cotton, USD/lb.	68.01	0.88%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, was up by 0.26% on the last trading day, closing at 5,389.17 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 56.53% 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 1.06% 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 9.98%, standing between 9.70% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures increased by 0.07%, the price of gold spot decreased by 0.09% and the price of cotton increased by 0.88% on the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Bangladesh emerging as Chinese firms' investment destination

- ◆ Bangladesh seems rapidly emerging as an investment hub for Chinese manufacturers seeking to diversify production bases to tide over high tariffs imposed by the United States on Chinese goods.
- ◆ Such change of fortune is in sight as a number of companies from China have recently signed agreements with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), and officials think others may be up and coming for relation.
- ◆ They say this trade migration highlights growing confidence of Chinese investors in Bangladesh's economic zones, particularly the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) in Mirsarai, close by the Chattogram seaport.
- ◆ Officials of the BEPZA have said the country's preferential duty benefits on the vast European Union (EU) market, comparatively lower tariffs on the US market, and expanding industrial infrastructure with low labour costs make Bangladesh an attractive alternative for Chinese firms which face higher tariffs both in the United States and India.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-emerging-as-chinese-firms-investment-destination-1756059158>

Slowing growth, weak investment strain economy: DCCI

- ◆ Bangladesh's economy is grappling with multiple challenges, including slowing growth, stubborn inflation, and a sharp fall in private investment, according to the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI).
- ◆ In its report "Bi-Annual Review: Current State & Future Outlook of Bangladesh Economy (H2 FY25)", the chamber attributes the strain to a mix of global headwinds and domestic policy challenges, urging swift and strategic government action to prevent a deeper crisis.
- ◆ Private investment dropped to 22.48% of the GDP in FY25, the lowest in the last 5 years. Both the opening of LCs and the import of capital machinery have declined, according to DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed.
- ◆ Strengthen law and order and ensure uninterrupted and reliable energy supply to improve the business environment.
- ◆ The report noted that in trying to curb inflation, the government has squeezed private sector credit and dampened economic activity, creating a medium-term crisis.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/slowing-growth-weak-investment-strain-economy-dcci-3970076>

Pakistan shows interest in shipbuilding industry

- ◆ Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has expressed interest in importing ships from Bangladesh after visiting shipyards in Chattogram.
- ◆ The minister, who is currently visiting Dhaka, joined a meeting with business leaders at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Motijheel area of the capital on 24th August, according to a press release.

- ◆ Khan praised the growing shipbuilding capacity of Bangladesh and said that Pakistan, which now imports vessels from abroad, could turn to Bangladeshi builders in the future.
- ◆ The minister added that Pakistani firms and agencies would assess options for procurement and joint ventures with Bangladeshi shipbuilders.
- ◆ Khan noted that Bangladesh's expertise in shipbuilding fits well with Pakistan's import requirements, stressing the need to deepen industrial cooperation between the two countries.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pakistan-shows-interest-shipbuilding-industry-3970051>

To defer or not to defer: The LDC graduation conundrum

- ◆ During the United Nations Committee for Development Policy's (UNCDP) assessment of Bangladesh's economic vulnerabilities in October-November, the government will have the opportunity to request a deferral of the country's LDC (Least Developed Country) graduation in 2026.
- ◆ Experts warn that if the government does not apply for an extension at that time, it may be very difficult to do so later.
- ◆ The government says the deferral can be requested anytime.
- ◆ Bangladesh is set to graduate from LDC status in November 2026, and yesterday, leaders of the country's top business associations demanded that the timeline be pushed back to 2032.
- ◆ However, Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Anisuzzaman Chowdhury told TBS that the interim government is not considering deferring LDC graduation based on business leaders' demands.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/defer-or-not-defer-ldc-graduation-conundrum-1219671>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Cenbank raises digital bank capital requirement to BDT 300cr

- ◆ The Bangladesh Bank has raised the minimum paid-up capital requirement for setting up a digital bank to BDT 300 crore, more than double the earlier threshold of BDT 125 crore.
- ◆ The new requirement was announced today through a central bank circular signed by Deputy Governor Dr Md Kabir Ahmed.
- ◆ Earlier, as per the digital bank guideline formulated in June 2023, the capital requirement was set at BDT 125 crore. By comparison, a conventional bank needs BDT 500 crore in paid-up capital to secure a licence.
- ◆ According to the guideline, digital bank licences will be issued under the Bank Company Act 1991, while payment services will operate under the Bangladesh Payment and Settlement System Regulations, 2014.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-raises-digital-bank-capital-requirement-tk300cr-1219361>

Energy

BD needs \$42b investment by 2040, says CPD

- ◆ Bangladesh will need an additional 18,162 megawatts (MW) of renewable power capacity by 2030 to reach a 20% share of total power capacity, and 35,713 MW by 2040 to achieve a 30% share, according to research by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
- ◆ Presented at a dialogue on 24th August, the study shows that a low plant factor of just 0.25 would require an additional investment of USD 35.2-42.6 billion, with most of the funding needed between 2030 and 2035 to meet the targets.
- ◆ Mehadi Hasan Shamim, programme associate at CPD, delivered the keynote, and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, CPD research director, moderated the event.
- ◆ Power sector experts and economists emphasised the need for a comprehensive energy plan and called for greater private sector engagement to meet growing investment demands in the renewable power sector.
- ◆ Mehadi Hasan Shamim says renewable energy currently contributes only 3.6% of the national grid's power generation, while gas-based fuels account for 43.4%.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-needs-42b-investment-by-2040-says-cpd-1756060145>

Capital Market

DSE turnover tops Tk 12b for first time in a year amid investor optimism

- ◆ Daily turnover on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) crossed the Tk 12 billion mark on Sunday for the first time in over a year, as upbeat investors poured fresh funds into fundamentally strong stocks amid growing optimism in the market.
- ◆ Turnover, a crucial indicator of the market, stood at slightly above Tk 12 billion on the country's premier bourse, up 56 per cent from the previous session's Tk 7.67 billion.
- ◆ It was the biggest single-day transaction since August 14 last year, when the market turnover totalled a record Tk 12.44 billion.
- ◆ Market analysts attributed the surge in trading activity to renewed investor confidence, spurred by attractive valuations of fundamentally strong and oversold stocks. Investors' sentiment remained resilient, bolstered by positive macroeconomic developments, notably rise in the foreign exchange reserves, remittance and exports.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-turnover-tops-tk-12b-for-first-time-in-a-year-amid-investor-optimism-1756062676>

BSEC's earnings jump 50% to Tk26cr in FY24

- ◆ The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) reported a significant boost in its financial performance for the fiscal year 2023-24, with net earnings rising by 50% year-on-year to Tk26.06 crore.

- ◆ According to its annual financial report, published on 12 August, the regulator's total income rose 9% year-on-year to Tk122.60 crore. After covering expenses, net earnings stood at Tk26.06 crore.
- ◆ The report stated that BSEC's main revenue sources include registration, annual and renewal fees, approval and application charges, fines and penalties, BO account maintenance fees, and interest income from deposits.
- ◆ Maqsood added that the BSEC has already taken steps to make the capital market the primary source of long-term financing and to establish it as a reliable investment avenue.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsecs-earnings-jump-50-tk26cr-fy24-1219631>

Margin rules not finalised yet, says BSEC

- ◆ The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Sunday clarified that the draft of Margin Rules will only be finalised after receiving public opinion.
- ◆ The clarification comes amid criticism from market operators who alleged the rules had already been finalised.
- ◆ According to the regulator, the issues of good governance and proper management of margin financing have been considered while formulating the draft rules to reduce the existing risks in debt management.
- ◆ Md. Abul Kalam, BSEC spokesperson, said that, as part of the regulatory process, public opinions and objections, if any, are sought before finalising any draft rules.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/margin-rules-not-finalised-yet-says-bsec-1756062776>

100% gains in 15 days: Stock traps emerge on social media, WhatsApp

- ◆ Small investors are once again being lured into dangerous traps with promises of extraordinary returns as some so-called investment platforms on WhatsApp groups and mobile apps are offering shares of listed companies, guaranteeing between 50% and 100% profits in just 15 days.
- ◆ These schemes, including but not limited to apps such as "DSEXPro" on Android and "DSEXPRO" on iOS, are presented with urgency and opportunity, inviting investors to open "high-net-worth" accounts and pay a nominal Tk1,000 membership fee.
- ◆ One WhatsApp group monitored by The Business Standard advertised a discount offer on shares of GQ Ball Pen Industries, priced at Tk361 in the market. Members were told they could subscribe at Tk245 and sell on 26 August, yielding a floating gain of 47.35%.
- ◆ According to Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) sources, listed company shares cannot be subscribed outside rights issues, which are meant for raising fresh capital. Even block market transactions fluctuate within 10% of the main market price.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/100-gains-15-days-stock-traps-emerge-social-media-whatsapp-1219686>