

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,594.39
% change	1.39%
DS30 Index	2,193.72
% change	1.70%
DSES Index	1,227.71
% change	1.70%
Turnover (BDT mn)	12,964.32
Turnover (USD mn)	106.50
% change	14.49%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	45,544.88
% change	-0.20%
S&P 500	6,460.26
% change	-0.64%
Nikkei 225	42,322.00
% change	-0.93%
FTSE 100	9,187.34
% change	-0.32%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	121.55	121.73
EUR	142.02	142.28
GBP	164.13	164.41
INR	1.38	1.38

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
31-Aug-25	9.75 - 11.00	10.00
28-Aug-25	9.50 - 11.00	9.98

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	67.43	-1.01%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,447.99	0.00%
Cotton, USD/lb.	66.54	-1.13%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, was up by 1.39% on the last trading day, closing at 5594.39 points.
- The daily turnover increased by 14.49% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- The majority of the global indices showed negative performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.20%, the S&P 500 fell by 0.64%, and the FTSE 100 fell by 0.32%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, fell by 0.93% on the last trading day.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT appreciated against the USD, GBP, and INR, and depreciated against the EUR.
- The average overnight rate was 10.00%, standing between 9.50% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures decreased by 1.01%, the price of gold spot was stable, and the price of cotton decreased by 1.13% on the last trading day.

Bangladesh Macro Update

Restoring Stability in the Balance of Payments

- ◆ Bangladesh has been facing a severe downturn in the balance of payments (BOP) since FY2021-22.
- ◆ While commendable progress has been made to reverse the downward trend, there is still a way to go.
- ◆ The objective of this essay is to explain the recent developments in the BOP, assess the robustness of the adjustment process, and suggest policy options for moving forward.
- ◆ The underlying causes of the BOP crisis are long-standing and deep-rooted.
- ◆ The immediate triggers were a series of external shocks relating to COVID-19, the global inflation of 2021-22, and the Russia-Ukraine War starting on February 24, 2022.
- ◆ These external shocks lowered global GDP growth and trade, and raised global commodity prices, inflation rates, and interest rates.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/restoring-stability-balance-payments-1225461>

Bangladesh's export to Brazil up 26% in FY25

- ◆ Bangladesh's multilateral engagement with Brazil, particularly in the economic sector, has deepened as Dhaka and Brasilia explore new avenues to elevate bilateral relations to greater heights, diplomatic and trade sources said.
- ◆ According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh exported goods worth USD 187 million to Brazil in the 2024-25 fiscal year, marking a 26% rise from USD 147 million in 2023-24.
- ◆ In July 2025 alone, exports stood at USD 16 million.
- ◆ Earlier, exports amounted to USD 175 million in 2022-23 and USD 109.2 million in 2021-22, showing a steady upward trend.
- ◆ The main export items from Bangladesh include readymade garments such as jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, shirts, suits, jackets, trousers, and shorts.
- ◆ In 2022-23, exports to Brazil surged by nearly 60% over the previous year, making the South American country one of Bangladesh's fastest-growing markets.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-export-brazil-26-fy25-1224566>

Jute prices hit record high

- ◆ The price of raw jute has hit a record high this harvesting season due to growing demand both at home and abroad.
- ◆ Farmers are happy with better prices, but jute factories are struggling as traders are hoarding large volumes of raw jute.
- ◆ In major jute-producing areas such as Pabna, Tangail, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, and Madaripur, raw jute is selling at BDT 4,000-4,300 per maund (37.32 kg), an all-time high for any harvesting season.

- ◆ Md Atiar Rahman, a farmer and part-time rickshaw driver from Pabna, says he sold jute from his five bighas of land at BDT 3,800-4,000 per maund in mid-August.
- ◆ Including the sale of jute sticks, he made a profit of about BDT 15,000 per bigha.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/35pc-taxpayers-in-41-zones-each-skipped-filing-1756663610>

Move to grant greater BB autonomy faces roadblock

- ◆ Much-envisaged independent functioning of the central bank now hangs in the balance mainly as bureaucrats on the Bangladesh Bank board steer a reverse course from reforms, sources say.
- ◆ As part of the ongoing reform recipes to empower the central bankers for proper implementation of the regulations, the banking-regulatory body moved for amending the decades-old Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 under which the central bank functions.
- ◆ With the greater objective in mind, the central bank authorities kept the important matter on its agenda of the latest board meeting held on August 26 for its approval before placing before the interim government.
- ◆ But the central bankers did not present the agenda before the board because of claimed non-cooperation by government secretaries on the 9-member board, according to the meeting insiders.
- ◆ However, the secretaries who sit on the central bank board rejected the claim, saying that the issue was discussed in the board meeting where they made some observations in the proposed draft in the amended BB order that needs to be corrected before placing it at the next board meeting.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/move-to-grant-greater-bb-autonomy-faces-roadblock-1756663352>

35pc taxpayers in 41 zones each skipped filing

- ◆ Around 35% of taxpayers in each of the 41 tax zones across the country did not file tax returns in the last fiscal year despite having the taxpayer identification number (TIN).
- ◆ A gap analysis, conducted by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), has revealed the alarming picture where TIN holders have not been followed up properly by taxmen in most of the tax zones.
- ◆ The analysis was done following a nominal year-on-year increase, nearly 6.0%, in the number of return filers in FY25.
- ◆ In the last fiscal year, some 5.3 million TIN holders did not submit returns, however, taxmen opened files for only 1.3 million of them.
- ◆ A persisting gap between the number of TIN holders and return filers is a widely-discussed issue in Bangladesh, which has one of the poorest tax-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratios, 6.7%, in the world.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/35pc-taxpayers-in-41-zones-each-skipped-filing-1756663610>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Fixing the capital crisis of the local banking sector

- ◆ The banking sector in Bangladesh faces a severe capital shortfall of BDT 1.71 lakh crore, or around USD 15.5 billion, as of late 2024, with the Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) down to 3.08%, far below the regulatory requirement of 12.50%, including buffers.
- ◆ The overall ratio has been dragged down by undercapitalised state-owned banks, posing risks to financial stability and weakening trust in local banks among foreign correspondents.
- ◆ Key drivers of this shortfall include inadequate capital buffers, a high volume of classified loans, dividend policies, reliance on traditional instruments, and weak corporate governance.
- ◆ The situation has been worsened by mounting Non-Performing Loans (NPLs).
- ◆ Official figures put the NPL ratio at about 20% in December 2024, though the true level is likely higher when rescheduled and written-off loans are included.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fixing-capital-crisis-local-banking-sector-3975496>

Regulator fixes audit fees for banks

- ◆ For the first time, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), an autonomous regulatory body, set audit fees for chartered accountants who will audit the financial statements of banks in the current fiscal year of 2025-26.
- ◆ In a notification, the FRC said, for banks with total assets or risk-weighted assets of up to BDT 10,000 crore, the total audit fee will be BDT 14.38 lakh, and where total assets or risk-weighted assets exceed BDT 150,000 crore, the fee will be BDT 70.33 lakh.
- ◆ According to the FRC Chairman, Md Sajjad Hossain Bhuiyan, they have set audit fees for the banking sector to bring discipline, and they would gradually fix such fees for other sectors as well.
- ◆ The FRC said the new rule will apply from the fiscal year 2025-26, and banks and auditors are expected to comply accordingly.
- ◆ The fees were determined following consultations with stakeholders, including banks and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB).

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulator-fixes-audit-fees-banks-3975451>

Telecom

BTRC sets 10 Mbps as minimum 4G speed

- ◆ The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has approved a revised Quality of Service (QoS) benchmark, setting the minimum 4G download speed at 10 Mbps.
- ◆ The new standard is higher than the 7 Mbps benchmark set in 2018 but lower than the 15 Mbps proposed in a draft QoS benchmark published in January.
- ◆ Since 2022, the BTRC has also been citing 15 Mbps as the standard 4G download speed in various programmes and official documents.
- ◆ The revised benchmark also reduces the minimum 4G upload speed to 2 Mbps, half of what was earlier proposed.
- ◆ The new regulation was finalised at last week's commission meeting, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the telecom and ICT ministry.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btrc-sets-10-mbps-minimum-4g-speed-3975166>

Capital Market

Stocks extend rally for second day

- ◆ Indices at the Dhaka Stock Exchange rose as of midday of 31 August, extending their gains for the second consecutive day.
- ◆ The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, increased 75.72 points, or 1.37%, to 5,593.66.
- ◆ The mood was similarly positive across the board: the Shariah-compliant DSES inched up 1.7% to 1,227.82, while the blue-chip DS30 went up 1.54% to 2,190.28.
- ◆ Turnover, an indicator of investor activity, reached Tk 876.41 crore at the time.
- ◆ Market breadth was positive, with 254 issues advancing against 72 declining and 66 holding steady.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stocks-extend-rally-second-day-3974961>

One in four stocks trades below face value

- ◆ One in four stocks on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is trading below face value, due mainly to the companies behind them failing.
 - ◆ Banks and finance firms weighed down by bad loans dominate this group, alongside mutual funds that have lost investor confidence. There are also textile stocks in this basket.
 - ◆ Analysts say this weakens the overall market, making it less attractive to both local and foreign investors.
 - ◆ According to them, strong companies do exist, but they are few, so investors now favour only those with solid performance.
 - ◆ They have urged the regulator to clean up the mess by shutting down or merging the bad ones and bringing in stronger companies.
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- ◆ Face value is the nominal price of a share or mutual fund unit set by the regulator, which in Bangladesh is BDT 10 for all equity and mutual fund securities.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/one-four-stocks-trades-below-face-value-3975446t>

Bangladesh now stands at threshold of potential bull market: EBL Securities

- ◆ Bangladesh's capital market is on the verge of a potential bull run, backed by improving macroeconomic indicators and growing investor confidence, Mohammad Rehan Kabir, head of Research at EBL Securities said on 31 August.
- ◆ He made the remark at an event titled "Investor Awareness Program" held at EBL Securities head office in Motijheel.
- ◆ The event conducted by the EBL Securities Research Team, was aimed at enhancing investor knowledge, promoting informed decision-making, and encouraging long-term participation in the market.
- ◆ The initiative has been reintroduced under the guidance of senior management as part of the company's ongoing efforts to build financial literacy among investors.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-now-stands-threshold-potential-bull-market-eb-securities-1225391>

VIPB Fixed Income Fund posts 26.2% return in first year

- ◆ Launched on 1 September 2024, with Sandhani Life Insurance Company Limited as trustee and BRAC Bank PLC as custodian, the fund generated a 21.2% increase in net asset value (NAV) alongside a 5% dividend yield. Its NAV per unit stood at BDT 12.12 at the end of FY25, while earnings per unit (EPU) was BDT 0.66.
- ◆ The fund manager said investors would receive a total return of 26.2% in the first year, combining capital appreciation and dividend payouts.
- ◆ A company statement expressed that the fund had started in 2024 with a clear focus on offering investors both security and consistent growth, and that this positive performance reflects that sentiment.
- ◆ The VIPB Fixed Income Fund is primarily invested in Treasury Bonds, an area where VIPB Asset Management has been a pioneer since 2012.
- ◆ VIPB Asset Management, one of the country's leading asset managers, said the result demonstrates its disciplined investment approach and strong fiduciary focus.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/vipb-fixed-income-fund-posts-262-return-first-year-1225401>

BRAC Bank's market cap crosses BDT 15,000cr, overtakes Robi

- ◆ BRAC Bank has emerged as one of the most valuable companies on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), with its market capitalisation crossing BDT 15,000 crore for the first time.

- ◆ The milestone pushed the private lender ahead of telecom operator Robi, making it the fourth-largest listed firm on the country's premier bourse.
- ◆ The bank's share price jumped by 7.14% to close at BDT 76.50, pushing its market capitalisation to BDT 15,230 crore today (31 August), according to the DSE data.
- ◆ The advancement comes after a sharp rally in the bank's stock, which has risen by 67% since May this year, fuelled by strong financial performance and renewed investor confidence.
- ◆ With the latest surge, BRAC Bank has overtaken Robi, whose current market capitalisation stands at BDT 15,085 crore. Only three companies (Grameenphone, Square Pharmaceuticals and BAT Bangladesh) now remain ahead of the bank in terms of market value on the bourse.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-banks-market-cap-crosses-BDT_15000cr-overtakes-robi-1225281