

Bangladesh Market

Major Indices	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,381.85
% change	-1.25%
DS30 Index	2,083.44
% change	-1.12%
DSES Index	1,158.96
% change	-1.63%
Turnover (BDT mn)	6,214.91
Turnover (USD mn)	51.05
% change	-5.08%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International Market

Major Indices	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	46,315.27
% change	0.37%
S&P 500	6,664.36
% change	0.49%
Nikkei 225	45,241.00
% change	0.43%
FTSE 100	9,216.67
% change	-0.12%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Major Currencies	Low (BDT)	High (BDT)
USD	121.75	121.75
EUR	142.98	143.02
GBP	163.95	164.05
INR	1.38	1.38

Source: BB

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average
21-Sep-25	9.75 - 11.00	9.98
18-Sep-25	9.75 - 11.00	9.99

Source: BB

Commodities

Major Commodities	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	66.82	0.21%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	3,686.38	0.04%
Cotton, USD/lb.	66.29	-0.91%

Source: Bloomberg

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX, was down by 1.25% on the last trading day, closing at 5,381.85 points.
- The daily turnover decreased by 5.08% on the last trading day.

Global Market

- Most of the global indices showed mixed performance on the last trading day; the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by 0.37%, the S&P 500 was up by 0.49%, and the FTSE 100 was down by 0.12%.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225, was up by 0.43% on the last trading day.

Key Macro Indicators

- The value of BDT depreciated against the USD, and appreciated against EUR, GBP, INR.
- The average overnight rate was 9.98%, standing between 9.75% and 11.00%.
- The price of oil futures increased by 0.21%, the price of gold spot increased by 0.04% and the price of cotton decreased by 0.91% on the last trading day.

Global Macro Update

Dollar extends post-Fed rebound

- ◆ The dollar strengthened on Friday, extending its rebound against most major currencies, as traders reviewed the near-term outlook after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates this week but signaled gradual easing in the future.
- ◆ The US Dollar Currency Index, which tracks the greenback against six major peers, rose 0.3% to 97.662.
- ◆ The gauge, which fell 1% on Monday and Tuesday on expectations the Fed might flag a rapid series of rate cuts, was about flat for the week.
- ◆ On Wednesday, the Fed delivered an expected rate cut but signaled little urgency to lower borrowing costs quickly in the coming months.
- ◆ The Fed's rate forecast, or the so-called "dot plot," showed projections of two more rate reductions this year.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dollar-extends-post-fed-rebound-3991311>

Bangladesh Macro Update

Bangladesh turns to AIIB for \$1.5b budget support amid fiscal strain

- ◆ The government has approached the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for USD 1.5 billion in budget support for the current fiscal year, reflecting a growing reliance on high-interest external financing to manage fiscal deficits and support reform initiatives including those for the troubled banking sector.
- ◆ Sources at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said the request, under the Climate Policy-Based Budget Support Program, was sent to AIIB on 13 August, with preliminary assurances received from the lender.
- ◆ In a recent reply, the Beijing-based lender stated its team will follow up with the ERD, Finance Division and relevant ministries to further discuss and assess the proposed programme.
- ◆ Besides AIIB, the government expects USD 1.85 billion more in budget support for the current fiscal year from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), ERD and finance ministry officials said.
- ◆ They added that budget support is used in covering deficits and bolster reserves, with the exact requirement for the current fiscal year to be finalised after the second quarter.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-turns-aiib-15b-budget-support-amid-fiscal-strain-1242356>

Liquidity improves as key indicators ease in August

- ◆ The financial market experienced improved liquidity in August as major indicators pointed to stronger funding conditions across the banking sector, according to Bangladesh Bank data released on Sunday.
 - ◆ Lower borrowing costs, smoother settlements, and reduced volatility marked the month's money market performance.
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- ◆ Total call-money transactions, a key gauge of liquidity, amounted to BDT 1.16 trillion during the month, while repayments by borrowing banks reached BDT 1.17 trillion.
- ◆ This left a surplus of BDT 9.34 billion, Bangladesh Bank data showed.
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News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/liquidity-improves-as-key-indicators-ease-in-august-1758475863>

Revenue collection rises 21% in July-August

- ◆ Revenue collection grew by nearly 21% year-on-year in the first two months of the current fiscal year, due mainly to a calmer political climate compared with the same period last year, when mass protests led to the fall of the Awami League government.
- ◆ While tax analysts have welcomed the rise, revenue officials are more cautious, and they say the increase is "nothing extraordinary", and it will take time to gauge the real trend.
- ◆ In the July-August period of fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collected BDT 54,423 crore, according to the board's provisional data.
- ◆ All three main revenue streams -- income tax, value-added tax (VAT), and customs duties, contributed to the rise.
- ◆ VAT receipts were the standout, beating the monthly target with a 4.80% gain.
- ◆ Local-level VAT collection amounted to BDT 22,437 crore, up from BDT 16,854 crore a year earlier, marking a 33.13 percent increase.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/revenue-collection-rises-21-july-august-3991326>

Govt to address SME export barriers

- ◆ The government will take initiatives to address hurdles faced by micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) entrepreneurs in exporting their products, said Lutfey Siddiqi, special envoy on international affairs to the chief adviser.
- ◆ He gave the assurance at a roundtable titled "Ways to Facilitate SME Entrepreneurs' Exports and Connect Them to Global Markets," organised by the SME Foundation at Parjatan Bhaban in Dhaka, according to a statement issued yesterday.
- ◆ Entrepreneurs attending the discussion highlighted the challenges they face in exports, including delayed payments from buyers, obstacles in sending product samples, online transactions, and alleged harassment from customs, Bangladesh Bank, payment gateway companies, and commercial banks.
- ◆ These issues, they said, lead to losses and undermine buyer confidence in timely product delivery.

- ◆ Responding to their concerns, Siddiqi immediately instructed government and private sector representatives present at the event to work on solutions.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-address-sme-export-barriers-3991336>

Experts stress strong backward linkages for industrial, agri dev

- ◆ Bangladesh risks falling behind in industrial and agricultural development unless it strengthens backward linkages and embraces automation, experts have warned.
- ◆ Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashiruddin said the country has lost its pre-independence manufacturing diversity due to an "anti-manufacturing bias."
- ◆ We now produce hundreds of thousands of motorcycles annually, but cannot manufacture a single engine.
- ◆ While agriculture worldwide relies on drones and robots, we are still dependent on power tillers and combine harvesters.
- ◆ He stressed that Bangladesh needs a clear industrial model, standardisation, and short-term sacrifices to enhance industrial capacity.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bashir-increasing-internal-capability-achieve-national-surplus-1242146>

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

What awaits general shareholders once BB merges 5 banks

- ◆ Bangladesh Bank has recently initiated a process of merging five banks into one entity, which will become the country's largest bank by assets.
- ◆ This gave rise to questions like what will happen to the stakeholders.
- ◆ All five soon-to-be-merged banks are listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and will be delisted once the merger is complete.
- ◆ Under the Bank Company Act, general shareholders are not entitled to compensation in the event of liquidation or merger.
- ◆ However, the Bangladesh Bank is considering ways to compensate them following advice from the finance ministry, a senior central bank executive told TBS.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/what-awaits-general-shareholders-once-bb-merges-five-banks-1241701>

Foreign investment key for financing, technology transfer: BB governor

- ◆ Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur has emphasised that foreign investment is essential for the country's growth, serving not only as a source of financing but also as a vital channel for technology transfer.
- ◆ Speaking at a seminar in Dhaka on 21 September, the Bangladesh Bank governor stressed that technology is the single most important driver of modern business and economic growth, but warned that Bangladesh still lags far behind in creating an enabling ecosystem.
- ◆ Weak infrastructure, shortage of skilled manpower, poor performance in global innovation rankings, and underfunded universities limit the country's ability to attract technology-based firms, according to Mansur.
- ◆ He said companies in the country do not invest in innovation for development, leaving talented students without opportunities to strengthen their skills.
- ◆ The governor also called for the adoption of an open, merit-based, technology-focused approach to development.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/foreign-investment-key-financing-technology-transfer-bb-governor-1242191>

Textile

BD eyes vast Japanese RMG mkt

- ◆ Bangladeshi apparel exporters are increasingly focusing on the Japanese market after understanding its vast untapped potential.
- ◆ Many readymade garment (RMG) manufacturers and buying houses are preparing to expand their presence in this high-value destination.
- ◆ With an imminent economic partnership agreement (EPA), growing Japanese interest in China Plus One sourcing, and a shared commitment to quality and sustainability, Bangladesh has a unique opportunity to expand its exports to Japan significantly, according to industry leaders.
- ◆ However, they stress that this will require strategic planning, consistent engagement, and investment in innovation to meet Japan's exacting standards and fully capture the potential of the lucrative market.
- ◆ According to the International Trade Centre (ITC), Japan imported apparel worth USD 22.86 billion in 2024.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-eyes-vast-japanese-rmg-mkt-1758475489>

Telecommunication

Teletalk, BTCL sit on Tk 7,000cr dues amid weak oversight

- ◆ While private telecom operators consistently meet their financial obligations to the regulator, two state-run entities have failed to do so over several years, with a staggering BDT 7,000 crore left unpaid, raising questions about preferential treatment in the sector.

- ◆ According to official documents seen by The Daily Star, Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd and Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) have failed for years to clear dues that include licence fees, revenue sharing, spectrum charges, administrative fines, value-added tax (VAT), and social obligations.
- ◆ Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) officials said the total could exceed BDT 10,000 crore if VAT and late fees are included.
- ◆ Private mobile operators, by contrast, regularly pay their dues, sometimes with added interest for minor delays.
- ◆ Similarly, small and medium telecom enterprises face fines, licence cancellations, or service restrictions if they fall behind. Such measures have rarely been enforced against the state-run firms.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/teletalk-btcl-sit-tk-7000cr-dues-amid-weak-oversight-3991321>

Capital Market

DSE continues downward trend

- ◆ Dhaka stocks continued their downward trend for a third consecutive day, with the main index seeing a decline driven by poor performances in the Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) and engineering sectors.
- ◆ The DSEX, the benchmark index of the bourse, declined 68.08 points, or 1.24%, to close at 5,381.84, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange data.
- ◆ Other indices followed the performance of the main index. Shariah-based DSES decreased 1.63% to 1,158.95, while the blue-chip DS30 went down by 1.12% to 2,083.43.
- ◆ Turnover, a key indicator of investor activity, stood at BDT621.49 crore, down from BDT654.72 crore in the previous session, signifying lower investor participation in line with the market downturn.
- ◆ The market closed in the red as all the large-cap sectors posted negative performance.

News Source:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-continues-downward-trend-3990956>

Capital market firms seek a fee exemption on the mandatory PLC name change

- ◆ The Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), representing listed firms, has urged the stock market regulator, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), to exempt companies from fees for the mandatory replacement of "Limited" with "PLC" (public limited company) in their names.
- ◆ Citing that adding PLC as a partial name change is a government directive and not the firm's own decision, the association, in a letter, has requested an exemption from the mandatory Tk50,000 fee charged by each stock exchange – a total of Tk1 lakh for both the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges.
- ◆ As per listing rules, if an issuer of listed securities intends to change its name, it shall pay to the stock exchange a fee of Tk50,000 before such name change.

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- ◆ Of the listed firms, including banks, insurers, and non-bank financial institutions and manufacturing sector firms, 126 have already changed their names by replacing Limited with PLC, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) data showed.
 - ◆ Almost all listed banks, and some insurers and NBFIs, have already complied with the Companies Act.

News Source:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/capital-market-firms-seek-fee-exemption-mandatory-plc-name-change-1242276>

Investigators highlight flaws in securities rules, propose reforms

- ◆ The committee formed after the fall of the previous government to probe stock market frauds has shed light on shortcomings in the securities rules, which seemed to have protected manipulators instead of investors.
- ◆ The most obvious outcome is the legal challenges that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) faces while trying to realise fines imposed on wrongdoers.
- ◆ A very common practice of the market watchdog against manipulators is to levy fines, but in most cases, such actions end up stuck in legal tangles.
- ◆ The securities and exchange ordinance does not permit the regulator to take prompt actions.
- ◆ The accused gets three months to apply to the commission seeking a "revision" of the regulatory decision. Irrespective of whether the accused has made a plea or not, they, upon the expiry of the duration, get another six months to appeal for a review of the penalty.

News Source:

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/investigators-highlight-flaws-in-securities-rules-propose-reforms-1758470151>