

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	4,231.49
% change	1.81%
DS30 Index	1,413.61
% change	1.69%
DSES Index	979.55
% change	1.99%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,225.12
Turnover (USD mn)	50.30
% change	28.68%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,277
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	39.01
% change	1.43%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,018.16
% change	4.89%
Nikkei 225	19,416.06
% change	-2.27%
FTSE 100	5,986.46
% change	0.44%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.95
EUR	95.83
GBP	109.67
INR	1.15

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average (%)
10-Mar-2020	4.50-5.50	5.21
09-Mar-2020	4.50-5.50	5.15

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	33.73	-5.76%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,635.90	0.05%
Cotton, USD/lb	60.77	-1.27%

Source: Bloomberg

Economy

Access to finance, graft remain key barriers: IFC

Access to finance, corruption and political instability are three major barriers the private sector faces in Bangladesh, according to a study. The private sector arm of the World Bank on Wednesday published the report on "Bangladesh's Journey to Middle Income Status: The Role of the Private Sector." The International Finance Corporation, IFC, surveyed 103 private firms from February to April 2019 in order to assess the firms' resilience and deeper challenges. The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, MCCI, and the IFC jointly organised the report launching programme in the city.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/access-to-finance-graft-remain-key-barriers-ifc-1583949450>

Bangladesh to benefit from coronavirus fallout: survey

Bangladesh will benefit from the fallout of the coronavirus as most of the globally renowned companies are planning to shift work orders from China to other Asian countries, including Bangladesh, according to a new survey. Hong Kong-based QIMA, a leading provider of supply chain compliance solutions and which partners with brands, retailers and importers to secure, manage and optimise their global supply network, surveyed the executives of more than 200 globally renowned companies between February and early March.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-benefit-coronavirus-fallout-survey-1879684>

Economy suffered no major setback in 2019 despite headwinds: ICCB

The Bangladesh economy did not suffer any major setback in the year 2019 though some headwind stemmed from slowed-down export and import due to shrinking global economic growth, observed International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh at its news bulletin of October-December 2019. 'The country archived 8.15 per cent GDP in the fiscal 2018-19, considered by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to be the fastest-growing economy in the Asia-Pacific Region,' said the bulletin released on Wednesday.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/101922/economy-suffered-no-major-setback-in-2019-despite-headwinds-iccb>

Postal savings schemes go digital

The government yesterday initiated the automation of ordinary and fixed deposit accounts under Post Office Savings Bank to ensure transparency and prevent affluent people from abusing the high interest-bearing tools designed for marginal and low-income groups. The database will keep in check the investment within the limit as well as ensure the transparency of the funds, said the finance division in a press release. The automation will be completed by

March 17, the minister said at the programme.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/postal-savings-schemes-go-digital-1879675>

Automation launch today to create savers' database

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will inaugurate an automation programme today (Wednesday) meant for creating a database of savers who will open savings accounts with directorate of posts. Two key savings accounts such as postal demand deposits and time deposits will be brought under this programme. As a result, the would-be account holders will have to submit their NIDs and TINs while opening such accounts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/automation-launch-today-to-create-savers-database-1583863051>

Infrastructure equipment market booming on mega projects

Bangladesh's infrastructure equipment manufacturing sector is undergoing sweeping changes to meet the increased demand brought on by the implementation of the government's mega projects to accelerate economic growth. The demand for highly advanced infrastructure equipment started its ascent when the government began construction of world-class development projects such as the Padma bridge, Rooppur nuclear power plant, Matarbari power plants, Karnaphuli Tunnel and Dhaka Metro Rail. With the impetus, the country's infrastructure equipment market has grown steadily for the last three to four years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/infrastructure-equipment-market-booming-mega-projects-1879594>

Bank and NBFIs

Silver lining for the banking sector as loan recovery soars in 2019

Pushed into a tight corner banks put up a spirited fight against the mounting default loans last year, as their loan recovery went up 15.46 per cent. Banks retrieved Tk 15,465 crore from defaulters in 2019, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. The positive news comes at a time when the majority of the banks are mired in problems, including a lack of corporate governance and an upward trend of defaulted loans. There was no scope for banks but to adopt a strong loan recovery programme to run their operations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/silver-lining-the-banking-sector-loan-recovery-soars-2019-1879678>

Textile

RMG buyers downsizing orders placed before: Rubana

A section of international buyers has informed the Bangladeshi apparel exporters that they would reduce their existing export orders by 15-30 per cent amid an adverse impact of coronavirus outbreak in China and its subsequent spreading to many other countries across the world, said Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association president Rubana Huq on Wednesday. She told reporters at a programme in Dhaka

that they were getting three types of requests, including reduction in the volume of export orders, from international buyers due to the epidemic.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/101915/rmg-buyers-downsizing-orders-placed-before-rubana>

Capital Market

Stocks jump for 2nd day on banks' spl fund moves

Dhaka stocks jumped for the second day on Wednesday as investors, encouraged by the share market investment moves by some banks following a Bangladesh Bank's direction, kept buying shares after recent plunges over coronavirus impact fears. Dhaka Stock Exchange's key index DSEX advanced by 1.8 per cent, or 75.16 points, to close at 4,231.48 points on the day after gaining 148.26 points in the previous session. Before the two-day gains, the DSEX lost 458 points in four trading sessions.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/101917/stocks-jump-for-2nd-day-on-banks-spl-fund-moves>

Stock

National Tubes to make foray into metal fabrication

National Tubes is set to erect a steel structure and fabrication unit for Tk 1.33 crore as the 51 per cent government-owned company looks to cash in on the current construction boom surrounding the government's implementation of myriad of development projects. The pipe manufacturer, which got listed in 1989, informed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday. The news sent its stocks up 2.94 per cent to Tk 115.7. The company deems the new unit will ramp up profits, said Md Saidur Rahman, managing director of National Tubes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/national-tubes-make-foray-metal-fabrication-1879582>

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Expected absolute returns are calculated as the percentage of difference between our target price and latest close price. Stock recommendations are based on absolute upside (downside) and have a 12-month horizon. Please note that future price fluctuations could lead to a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock and our recommendation.

Recommendation Type	Holding period (if not otherwise mentioned)	Absolute Return Potential
Buy	12 Months	More than +15%
Neutral/ Hold	12 Months	Between +15 % and -5 %
Underweight	12 Months	Less than -5 %

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