

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	4,008.29
% change	0.80%
DS30 Index	1,330.83
% change	0.53%
DSES Index	920.69
% change	0.37%
Turnover (BDT mn)	3,481.39
Turnover (USD mn)	41.45
% change	149.49%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,122
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	37.17
% change	0.46%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	23,650.44
% change	-2.44%
Nikkei 225	19,291.26
% change	-1.92%
FTSE 100	5,812.83
% change	+0.45%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.95
EUR	91.67
GBP	99.90
INR	1.11

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range	Weighted Average (%)
06-Apr-2020	5.00-5.00	5.00
05-Apr-2020	4.50-5.00	4.99

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	25.33	-0.94%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,690.21	-0.32%
Cotton, USD/lb	53.12	-1.67%

Source: Bloomberg

Economy

Laid-off export plants made ineligible

Export-oriented factories opting for lay-off will not be eligible for loans from the government's relief package of Tk 50 billion intended to pay the workers' wages, the government says. Industrial units engaged in direct export with more than 80 per cent overseas sales would get support from the rescue package provided their letter of credit (L/C) documents are scrutinised. In addition, the deemed exporters would be entitled to availing working capital from the incentive package of Tk 200 billion constituted for the small and medium enterprises and can pay their workers from the fund, the Ministry of Finance said. It said if any industrial unit announced lay-off, it would not be entitled to getting financial support from the first phase of stimulus package.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/laid-off-export-plants-made-ineligible-1587404057>

Govt seeks \$500m budget aid from ADB

The Asian Development Bank, or ADB, has pledged to offer over US\$600 million in loans to help Bangladesh finance budget and health services outlays in the wake of coronavirus outbreak. Of the amount, \$500 million will be provided as budget support and the remaining \$102.39 million for the health service improvement during fiscal year 2019-20.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-seeks-500m-budget-aid-from-ADB-1587403628>

Bank and NBF

BB policy supports give banks manoeuvrability

The central bank's policy support is helping banks manage their funds, despite higher withdrawal pressure on cash even as deposits shrink in the aftermath of coronavirus outbreak. People are now withdrawing cash from the banks using both debit and credit cards along with cheques to meet their emergency needs, though deposit mobilisation remains poor.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-policy-supports-give-banks-manoeuvrability-1587403247>

BB frees up Tk 3,000cr for farmers, micro enterprises

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday unveiled a financial package of Tk 3,000 crore for underprivileged farmers, professionals and micro enterprises to keep them afloat. Marginal businesses and farmers with no access to banks and non-bank financial institutions will be allowed to get loans from the revolving fund at 9 per cent interest rate. Microfinance institutes (MFIs) with certificates from the Microcredit Regulatory Authority can give out the loans. Under the package, the BB will initially provide the fund to banks at 1 per cent interest, which they will lend to MFIs at 3.5 per cent interest. The MFIs will be allowed to charge a maximum of 9 per cent interest to borrowers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-frees-tk-3000cr-farmers-micro-enterprises-1895125>

BB eases sending money to Bangladeshi students stuck abroad

Banks can remit on account of academic fees including boarding and lodging, health insurance, incidental expenses of Bangladeshi students, who are stuck abroad for lockdown, the Bangladesh bank has instructed Monday. The facilities shall be applicable till June 30. The central bank has extended the time of providing transaction facilities Bangladeshi nationals travelling abroad, including for treatment to June 30 from April 30.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-eases-sending-money-bangladeshi-students-stuck-abroad-71803>

Fuel and Power

Govt plans to review operation of power plants, says minister

The government has a plan to review the operation of power plants as some areas have been witnessing power outages despite lower demand amid coronavirus-related shutdown, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid said on Monday. Establishing a firm for operation and maintenance of the power plants is also under consideration.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-plans-to-review-operation-of-power-plants-says-minister-1587404279>

Cooking gas demand drops by 40%

The demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a popular cooking fuel in urban areas, dropped by up to 40 percent within the past one month due to the ongoing countrywide shutdown imposed to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. Bashundhara LPG, one of the leading brands with 25 percent of the market share, now has around 40 percent lower demand for its product. Zakaria Jalal, general manager of Bashundhara LPG, said they would usually sell 20,000 tonnes of LPG in a month. However, in the last one month, the demand dropped to 8,000 tonnes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/cooking-gas-demand-drops-40-71791>

Pharmaceuticals

No bar on export of hydroxychloroquine: commerce ministry

There is no bar on the export of hydroxychloroquine tablets and other medicines under the existing export policy of the country, said the commerce ministry. The ministry on Sunday said that that Bangladesh could export any type of medicines, including hydroxychloroquine, to any country to fight the global coronavirus pandemic. The foreign ministry on the same day sought the commerce ministry's opinion after Malaysia requested Bangladesh to withdraw restrictions on the export of the antimalarial drug known as hydroxychloroquine.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/104758/no-bar-on-export-of-hydroxychloroquine-commerce-ministry>

Capital Market

CSE moots Tk 10.50b stimulus package

The Chattogram Stock Exchange (CSE) has proposed a Tk 10.50-billion stimulus packages for small investors and brokers to offset huge losses due to the outbreak of coronavirus. Its proposals include special loan only for CSE brokers worth Tk 5.0 billion and subsidising interest on margin loan worth Tk 4.0 billion. The CSE said most of its brokers cannot avail loan facility from the recently declared Tk 100-billion loan facility by the central bank due to stringent criteria. For an easy access to the fund, CSE suggested that Bangladesh Bank allocate a special fund/loan of Tk 5.0 billion for CSE stockbrokers after meeting eligible criteria set by CSE.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cse-moots-tk-1050b-stimulus-package-1587404464>

Nialco Alloys to go public

Nialco Alloys, a manufacturer of grade bronze and brass ingots, is awaiting the regulatory consent to raise a capital worth Tk 100 million from the SME Board of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE). The Chittagong-based company will raise the capital issuing 10 million ordinary shares of Tk 10 each through qualified investors offer (QIO). Only the eligible investors (EIs) and high net worth individuals are allowed to purchase the company's shares offered through the SME Board.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/nialco-alloys-to-go-public-1587395697>

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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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