

## Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,227.50
% change	0.00%
DS30 Index	1,845.55
% change	-0.09%
DSES Index	1,204.75
% change	0.19%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,729.44
Turnover (USD mn)	56.30
% change	-2.56%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,888
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	46.28
% change	0.06%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

## International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,962.44
% change	-0.66%
Nikkei 225	20,601.05
% change	-0.37%
FTSE 100	7,125.00
% change	-0.90%

Source: Bloomberg

## Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.38
EUR	93.63
GBP	102.61
INR	1.18

Source: Bangladesh Bank

## Money Market

Date	Call Money Rate Range	Weighted Average (%)
19-Aug-2019	4.25-5.00	4.62
18-Aug-2019	4.25-5.00	4.59

Source: Bangladesh Bank

## Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	60.36	+0.55%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,503.07	-0.27%
Cotton, USD/lb	58.73	-0.69%

Source: Bloomberg

## Economy

### Inflation inches up in July

The country's point-to-point inflation was recorded at 5.62 per cent in July, the first month of the current fiscal year (FY), 2019-20, showing a rising trend. In July, the inflation increased by 0.10 percentage points from that of 5.52 per cent in June last. In the month of July of the previous FY, 2018-19, the rate of inflation was recorded 5.51 per cent. The highest inflation in the last 13 months was 5.63 per cent in May.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-inches-up-in-july-1566322742>

### July exports up by 8.55pc

Country's earnings from shipment of merchandise products grew by 8.55 per cent in the first month of the current fiscal year over the corresponding month of last fiscal. Bangladesh earned nearly US\$3.89 billion in July last compared to \$3.58 billion in July, 2018. The export earnings during the month of July last were 1.59 per cent up higher than the strategic target set for the same month.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/july-exports-up-by-855pc-1566323220>

### Central VAT reg rules issued for businesses

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has issued the central VAT registration rules to help businesses obtain single registration for production of 'identical and similar' goods and services. The 'Value Added Tax (VAT) and Supplementary Duty (obtaining Central Registration and tax payment) Rules-2019' now allow for central registration of businesses that maintain accounts and pay taxes centrally. Any businessman or service provider will also be able to obtain central registration if they sell products from their own sales units. However, businesses will have to pay VAT at a rate of 15 per cent for obtaining central registration.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/central-vat-reg-rules-issued-for-businesses-1566322451>

### No funded facility as pension liabilities keep galloping

The government's liabilities on account of pension for retiring officials are increasing due to having a much higher number of people than required in the top tier of the civil administration. Currently the highest monthly pension for a person is Tk 70,200 for some posts against the earlier amount of Tk 40,500. The government's liabilities on account of pension and pension-related obligations will rise significantly, leaving its impact on the fiscal management.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-funded-facility-as-pension-liabilities-keep-galloping-1566322880>

## **Saudi firm looks to invest in Bangladesh's port infrastructure**

Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT), one of the largest terminal operators in Saudi Arabia, is keen on making investments under public-private partnership to develop Bangladesh's port infrastructure and maritime sector. The RSGT has proposed investing in port infrastructure development and providing technical support for the existing Chattogram, Mongla and Payra ports. The Saudi company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the shipping ministry to explore investment opportunities and provide expertise to Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/saudi-firm-looks-invest-bangladeshs-port-infrastructure-1787965>

## **Stock**

### **Confidence Power Rangpur starts commercial operation**

Confidence Power Rangpur has started commercial operation of its heavy fuel oil (HFO)-based net 113MW Power Plant consisting of Unit of Bergen Engines supplied along with related auxiliaries by Norway to sell the whole production of electricity to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). The Confidence Power Bogra Unit-2, a 99 per cent subsidiary of Confidence Power Holdings, also started commercial operation on March 30, this year.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/confidence-power-rangpur-starts-commercial-operation-1566313889>

### **ICB representative resigns from ACI board over 'Shwapno' issue**

The representative of state-owned Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has resigned from the board of listed company Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Limited as its subsidiary 'Shwapno', a chain super shop brand, has been incurring huge losses. The super shop has been running at a loss since its inception in 2008. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, 'Shwapno' incurred a loss of Tk135 crore, and its accumulated loss in the year stood at Tk891 crore. For this reason, Kazi Sanaul Hoq, representative of the ICB, resigned from the board of ACI Limited on July 1.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2019/08/20/icb-representative-resigns-from-aci-board-over-shwapno-issue>

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