

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	5,475.99
% change	-0.50%
DS30 Index	2,105.58
% change	-0.70%
DSES Index	1,242.49
% change	-0.67%
Turnover (BDT mn)	6,941.33
Turnover (USD mn)	82.63
% change	-19.65%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	4,657
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	55.44
% change	-0.65%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	31,613.02
% change	+0.29%
Nikkei 225	30,344.97
% change	+0.17%
FTSE 100	6,710.90
% change	-0.56%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.80
EUR	102.10
GBP	117.51
INR	1.16

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average (%)
17-Feb-2021	1.00-5.25	1.60
16-Feb-2021	1.00-5.25	1.64

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	65.12	+1.21%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,783.70	+0.43%
Cotton, USD/lb	89.90	-0.03%

Source: Bloomberg

Economy

Rush for family savings tools

The downing of bank deposit rates is pushing savers towards national savings certificates as they seek higher returns after incomes were wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic. Sales of family savings instruments grew nearly threefold year-on-year to Tk 20,149 crore in the July-December period of fiscal 2020-21 from Tk 7,581 crore. Overall sales of savings certificates soared 60 per cent year-on-year to Tk 54,976 crore in the first half of the fiscal year. The driving factor was the more than 11 per cent interest offered by the government on various savings certificates, including that for families. The interest rate of family saving certificates is the highest, at 11.52 per cent.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rush-family-savings-tools-2049053>

57,000 companies come under tax net in 3 months: taskforce

Fifty-seven thousand companies have been brought under the tax net in the last three months, according to a report prepared by a National Board of Revenue's taskforce. There were 1,76,400 registered public and private companies in the country and till August 2020, 55 per cent or 98,400 of the firms had been running their activities without having tax identification numbers.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/130768/57000-companies-come-under-tax-net-in-3-months-taskforce>

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/nbr/nbr-brings-57535-companies-under-tax-net-204946>

World Bank may approve \$1.6b vaccine funding for Bangladesh, 11 others

The World Bank is likely to approve \$1.6 billion in vaccine funding for 12 countries, including Bangladesh, the Philippines, Tunisia and Ethiopia, by the end of March. 30 more countries will also be given the funding shortly. The global lender has started working to standardise COVID-19 vaccine contracts that countries are signing with drug makers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/world-bank-may-approve-16b-vaccine-funding-for-bangladesh-11-others-1613824465>

Bank and NBFI

25 banks invest Tk 10.33b in capital market

As many as 25 banks have so far invested Tk 10.33 billion in the capital market in a bid to prop it up in response to the Bangladesh Bank's circular issued last year when the market remained volatile. The BB issued the circular calling for the formation of a special fund of Tk 2.0 billion by each scheduled bank for the purpose of investing in the capital market. Some 25 banks, out of 41, had earlier submitted information regarding their plans to invest Tk 26.73 billion through the formation of the special funds.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/25-banks-invest-tk-1033b-in-capital-market-1613701307>

Telecommunication

Mobile operators demand a spectrum cap in upcoming auction

With the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) gearing up to hold its spectrum auction on March 8, the mobile operators are fretting that one of them might cannibalise the spectrum available. The total demand for spectrum allocation among the country's top three mobile operators is 11.4 MHz, but the BTRC is set to auction off only 7.4 MHz. If an operator takes the lion's share of spectrum, the lack of any spectrum allocation cap, which was present in the last auction in 2018, may jeopardise the notion of a level-playing field in the sector.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/02/22/mobile-operators-demand-a-spectrum-cap-in-upcoming-auction>

Capital Market

eGeneration makes debut on Feb 23

eGeneration, one of the leading IT consulting and software solution companies in Bangladesh, will make its share trading debut on February 23 (Tuesday) under the "N" category. Trading code for eGeneration is "EGEN". The company offloaded 15 million ordinary shares with an offer price of Tk 10 each using the fixed price method.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/egeneration-makes-debut-on-feb-23-1613632095>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/02/19/egeneration-s-share-trading-flags-off-on-february-23>

Baraka Patenga IPO shares bidding begins Monday

Baraka Patenga Power's bidding to explore the cut-off price of its IPO shares is set to begin on Monday (February 22), aiming to raise Tk 2.25 billion under the book-building method. The bidding will continue until February 25. Baraka Patenga Power will raise Tk 2.25 billion from the capital market under the book-building method.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/baraka-patenga-ipo-shares-bidding-begins-monday-1613796374>

15 companies revving up for IPOs

A total of 15 companies are waiting for approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission to raise upwards of Tk 500 crore by offloading shares through initial public offerings (IPOs). Of the firms, 14 companies are expected to raise Tk 425 crore by issuing shares at Tk 10 each. The other company would raise Tk 75 crore under the book-building method. Of the 15 companies that are gearing up to go public, four have re-applied: JMI Hospital Request, Master Feed Agrotech, Beka Garments and Three Angle Marine.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2021/02/22/15-companies-revving-up-for-ipos>

BSEC sees no need of new provision in Companies Act

The securities regulator sees no bar in implementing its directive recently issued to settle investors' claims for unclaimed or unpaid or unsettled dividends. It also finds no need of introducing any new provision in Companies Act to pull the accumulated dividends, which remained unsettled for three years, into a custodian for the purpose of settlement of investors' perpetual claims.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bsec-sees-no-need-of-new-provision-in-companies-act-1613876935>

Stock

Grameenphone lost 9 lakh subscribers in January

Grameenphone, hot off a record-breaking year of profit, lost 9.2lakh subscribers in January, in a development that can be viewed as against the run of play. At the end of January, the country's leading operator's total subscriber base stood at 7.8 crore, which is 45.9 per cent of the total market. Robi, the country's second largest operator, gained 2.2 lakh new subscribers to take its tally to 5.1 crore. The new customers edged up Robi's market share from 29.9 per cent in December 2020 to 30 per cent last month.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/02/19/grameenphone-lost-9-lakh-subscribers-in-january>

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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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Contact Us

Research Team

Md. Hasib Reza, CFA	Head of Research	hasib.reza@ucb.com.bd	+880 1755 658 997
Md. Sakib Chowdhury, CFA	Deputy Head of Research	sakib.chowdhury@ucb.com.bd	+880 1713 205 698
Md. Nazmus Sakib	Research Associate	nazmus.sakib@ucb.com.bd	+880 1701 205 073
Anik Mahmood Ibne Anwar, CFA	Research Associate	anik.mahmood@ucb.com.bd	+880 1701 205 074
Shadman Sadique Kamal	Research Associate	shadman.kamal@ucb.com.bd	+880 1701 205 096

Investment Strategist

Syed Adnan Huda, CFA	COO & Vice President	adnan.huda@ucb.com.bd	+880 1730 325 232
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Institutional & Foreign Trade

Sonchoy Saha, CFA	Head of Institutional Sales	sonchoy.kumer@ucb.com.bd	+880 1755 615 313
Tahmidur Rahman	Assistant Vice President	rahman.tahmidur@ucb.com.bd	+880 1726 995 520

Office Premises

Head Office

1st Floor
6, Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka 1000
Bangladesh

Corporate Office

Bulus Center
(Level-2)
Plot-CWS (A)-1, Road No - 34
Gulshan Avenue
Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh

Extension of Main Office

Room # 126, DSE Tower (Level # 8)
Plot 46, Road-21, Nikunja - 02
Dhaka- 1229
Bangladesh

Extension of Main Office

NIK Tower (3rd & 4th Floor)
55 Dilkusha C/A
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

Extension of Main Office

Plot# 12, (2nd Floor, West side)
Road # 05 Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Bangladesh

Chattogram Office

Muntasir Centre (5th Floor)
253, Wasa Circle, Dampara
Khulshi, Chattogram
Bangladesh