

Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	4,390.67
% change	-0.09%
DS30 Index	1,496.40
% change	0.12%
DSES Index	985.44
% change	0.39%
Turnover (BDT mn)	2,394.53
Turnover (USD mn)	28.51
% change	-9.12%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,366
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	40.07
% change	0.41%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	28,515.45
% change	-0.13%
Nikkei 225	23,830.58
% change	0.04%
FTSE 100	7,629.37
% change	0.08%

Source: Bloomberg

Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.81
EUR	94.08
GBP	110.15
INR	1.19

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Money market

Date	Call Money Rate Range	Weighted Average (%)
19-Dec-2019	3.75-5.50	4.99
18-Dec-2019	4.00-5.50	5.05

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	67.47	0.40%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,503.31	0.23%
Cotton, USD/lb	68.70	0.13%

Source: Bloomberg

Economy

Loan rescheduling hits new high

Banks rescheduled a record amount of defaulted loans in the first nine months of 2019 as part of their efforts to contain bad debt and manage hefty profit, albeit artificially. Between January and September, non-performing loans (NPLs) amounting to Tk 31,175 crore were regularized, the highest on record even for a single year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/loan-rescheduling-hits-new-high-1845238>

ADB to support BD's reform

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to help Bangladesh ease transborder and regional trade through facilitating infrastructural development and regulatory reforms, officials have said. Under the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), the Manila-based lender has assured Dhaka of its technical and financial support to this effect. Economic Relations Division (ERD) officials said an ADB team on a recent mission in Dhaka sat with public agencies and ministries concerned preparatory to the proposed project.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adb-to-support-bds-reform-1577296327>

Telecommunication

BTRC makes fresh attempt to audit BL, Airtel

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has decided to make a fresh attempt to appoint auditors to conduct financial and technical inspections in two mobile phone operators — Banglalink and Airtel — after wasting two years on the same process. The telecom regulator at a recent commission meeting with its chairman Md Jahurul Haque in the chair made the decision to invite fresh expression of interest for the appointment of auditors for the two mobile phone operators.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/94652/btrc-makes-fresh-attempt-to-audit-bl-airtel>

Telecom tussle erodes trust

The outgoing 2019 would go down as one of the most challenging years for Bangladesh's telecom industry, weighed down by the ongoing tussle between the regulator and two operators as well as slump in growth in mobile and internet connections. Mobile phone operators were also not able to make as much investment as they had wanted in the beginning of the year because of regulatory restrictions on the import of network equipment and current network maintenance and offering new services, depriving the country of much-needed investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/telecom-tussle-erodes-trust-1845235>

Fuel & Power

Power Div seeks tax holiday for private plants to miss deadline

Power Division of the power, energy and mineral resources ministry has sought income tax holiday for 15 years for the private power generation companies which will go into commercial operations after December 31 this year. According to the existing statutory regulatory order, private power plants, except coal-based ones, should go into commercial operations by December 31, 2019 for getting complete income tax exemption for 15 years up to 2034 and a set of other fiscal incentives for various periods.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/94651/power-div-seeks-tax-holiday-for-private-plants-to-miss-deadline>

Textile

Double trouble for RMG

The garment sector is facing a double whammy as more and more factories are closing at a time when apparel shipments are falling. Between July and November, garment exports declined 7.74 percent year-on-year to \$13.08 billion, which was 13.63 percent below the target set for the period, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). In the last 11 months to November, 61 factories were shut down, rendering 31,600 workers jobless, according to data from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the trade body for apparel makers and exporters.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/double-trouble-rmg-1845232>

Insurance

Total premium income of pvt life ins cos rises to Tk 84,758m

The total premium income of private sector life insurance companies increased from Tk. 77,318 million in 2017 to Tk. 84,758 million in 2018. The total assets of the private sector life insurance companies stood at Tk.363,942 million in 2018 as against Tk. 346,521 million in 2017. According to the latest annual report of Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA), the gross premium income of non-life private sector insurance companies increased from Tk. 26,694 million in 2017 to Tk.30,347 million in 2018 registering a growth rate of 13.68 per cent.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/total-premium-income-of-pvt-life-ins-cos-rises-to-tk-84758m-1577298536>

Capital Market

Meera Agro to kick off DSE's SME platform

Meera Agro Inputs, a seed producer, is set to raise Tk 5 crore from the stock market within the next three months, becoming the first company to get listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange's newly launched small cap board. The small-cap board, called the DSE SME, was rolled out on April 30 with a view to facilitating small- and medium-sized enterprises to raise funds, which were shut out from the process before that for their lower turnover.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/meera-agro-kick-dses-sme-platform-1845226>

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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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