

## Bangladesh market snapshot

	Last closing
DSEX Index	4,772.00
% change	0.96%
DS30 Index	1,675.10
% change	0.95%
DSES Index	1,096.39
% change	1.07%
Turnover (BDT mn)	3,226.92
Turnover (USD mn)	38.42
% change	18.91%
Market Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,611
Market Capitalization (USD bn)	42.99
% change	1.22%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

## International market snapshot

	Last closing
Dow Jones Industrial Average	26,958.06
% change	+0.57%
Nikkei 225	22,799.81
% change	+0.22%
FTSE 100	7,324.47
% change	-0.05%

Source: Bloomberg

## Exchange rate

Currency	BDT
USD	84.72
EUR	93.87
GBP	108.67
INR	1.20

Source: Bangladesh Bank

## Money Market

Date	Call Money Rate Range (%)	Weighted Average (%)
23-Oct-2019	3.00-5.50	4.50
22-Oct-2019	3.50-5.50	4.81

Source: Bangladesh Bank

## Commodities

	Price	% Change
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl	62.02	+0.57%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz	1,504.63	+0.04%
Cotton, USD/lb	64.90	+0.39%

Source: Bloomberg

## Economy

### BD moves eight slots up

Bangladesh has moved up by eight notches in the 'Ease of Doing Business' index, though it clinched the lowest position in South Asia, after Afghanistan. Bangladesh made some reforms in the past one year to April 2019 that, many believe, helped improve its ranking to 168th from 176th out of 190 nations. The World Bank made the disclosures in its annual flagship report styled 'Ease of Doing Business 2020' revealed in Washington on Thursday.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/bd-moves-eight-slots-up-1571939160>

### Automation cuts sales 60pc

With sales sliding by nearly 60 per cent, the government measures intended to contain transactions of savings instruments have started making an impact. The sales of four popular savings instruments during the July-September period last was Tk 90 billion, a 59.4 per cent decline over the same period a year earlier. The sales during July-September in 2018 accounted for Tk 222.56 billion, according to the Department of National Savings (DNS). As part of restricting sales of national saving certificates, the government is currently making a database of the buyers of the tools. One has to submit multiple documents, including e-TIN to buy the borrowing instruments. Besides, national identity cards, bank accounts, mobile numbers and cheque transaction are also mandatory while investing in the risk-free instruments.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/automation-cuts-sales-60pc-1572024803>

### Matarbari to host deep seaport

The government is set to build Matarbari deep seaport, near Cox's Bazar, with funding from Japan, officials said. The officials said the port will be set up to handle large ocean-going ships, cargoes and oil tankers as the Chittagong port is unable to accommodate those due to its lower draft. The capacity of the proposed port will be two-three times higher than that of Bangladesh's largest seaport in Chittagong, they said. The Chittagong Port Authority has taken up a Tk 185.80 billion project for constructing the multi-purpose port at Matarbari to be financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The JICA is also helping Bangladesh set up a 1,200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant and a modern township at Matarbari. The port authority has recently sought approval from the Planning Commission for the Matarbari project on the Maheshkhali Island in the Bay of Bengal.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/matarbari-to-host-deep-seaport-1572024880>

### \$1b taka bond debuts Nov 11

A \$1 billion taka-linked bond is set to be floated on the London Stock

Exchange on November 11 as the government looks to mobilise the hordes of expatriate Bangladeshis the world over towards nation building and also draw in foreign investors. The disclosure was made by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at a programme held at the Bangladesh high commission in London on Thursday, according to a statement from the finance ministry. The bond will be backed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which has been working with the government for four years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/1b-taka-bond-debuts-nov-11-1819294>

### **Government plans \$500m infrastructure fund**

The government is planning to create a \$500 million infrastructure fund to ease financing of projects under the public private partnership programme. The proposed fund will primarily be financed by the private sector with the initial seed money worth \$100 million or 20 per cent of the total funds to be availed from government sources. The Prime Minister's Office has already formed a committee, headed by PMO director general Mohammad Salah Uddin, to make recommendations on the creation of the infrastructure fund and introduction of stapled financing as an effective financing solution for PPP projects.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88879/government-plans-500m-infrastructure-fund>

### **Banks & NBFIs**

#### **Transactions grow by 13.7pc in July-Sept**

Money transactions through mobile financial services (MFS) grew by 13.69 per cent or Tk 13,058.78 crore year-on-year in the July-September period of the current fiscal year 2019-2020 as the MFS operators focused on making the service more convenient for clients. As per the Bangladesh Bank data, transactions through MFS increased to Tk 1,08,423.30 crore in July-September of FY20 against Tk 95,364.52 crore in the same period of FY19. Number of transactions, daily average transactions and number of MFS accounts also increased notably in the period under review. Bankers and mobile financial service providers said that the MFS providers had been bringing more services under their platform thus attracting higher customers' attention.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88762/transactions-grow-by-137pc-in-july-sept>

#### **Money loan courts fail to deliver results**

The money loan courts (Artha Rin Adalat), which were created in 2003 to help expeditious resolution of disputes between banks and their clients over loan repayment, are overburdened. These courts are failing to meet the very objectives behind their formation, to a large extent. According to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) statistics, a total of 62,204 cases were awaiting disposal in the money loan courts across the country until June 2019. A total of Tk 1176.14 billion is stuck up with these cases.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/money-loan->

[courts-fail-to-deliver-results-1572066584](#)

### Construction Materials

#### Steel Engineering corp. losing out to pvt peers

The financial muscle of the state-owned steel maker remains highly fragile, with most of its units failing to compete with private enterprises, officials say. Though profitable until now, the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation might see the reversal of its fortune in the next two to three years if the units under its control continue to lose business, they said. During the last five financial years, profit margin of the agency reduced by about 50 per cent while its liabilities kept ballooning, thus making it difficult for the corporation to maintain a healthy balance sheet.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88562/government-drafts-responses-to-complaints>

### Textile

#### BGMEA seeks stimulus package from Bangladesh Bank

The country's apparel exporters have demanded a stimulus package from the Bangladesh Bank, including loan rescheduling facility and compensation against the value of dollar on retained value, to enhance competitiveness of the sector in the global market and to protect the interests of small and medium scale factories at home. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association president Rubana Huq submitted the set of demands during a meeting with Bangladesh Bank governor Fazle Kabir on October 7. Citing the recent negative export earnings growth and fall in prices of RMG products in the global market, Rubana demanded loan rescheduling facilities with a provision of 2 per cent down payment for factories which were not habitual defaulters.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tough-times-the-apparel-industry-bgmea-president-1819324>

### Telecommunication

#### Court asks how much GP can pay now

The Appellate Division on Thursday wanted to know how much Grameenphone could pay now to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) from its Tk 125.79-billion dues. The apex court asked the lawyers of the mobile operator to inform the court of the amount by October 31. At the same time, it adjourned the hearing on the telecoms regulator's petition until that date. A seven-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, passed the order while hearing a petition filed by BTRC. The BTRC petition sought a stay on a High Court (HC) order that issued an ad-interim injunction for two months against the realisation of the dues.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/court-asks-how-much-gp-can-pay-now-1571939414>

#### Bangladesh telcos pay 3rd highest spectrum fee in S, SE Asia: Moody's

Among South and Southeast Asian countries, Bangladesh's mobile phone operators have been paying the third highest spectrum charge in last 10

years, said a sector in-depth report of global rating agency Moody's Investment Service. The report was released on Tuesday. In Bangladesh, telecom operators have paid 7 per cent of their aggregated revenue for spectrum charge. Indian mobile phone operators have paid the highest (7.6 per cent) of their aggregated revenue as spectrum charge.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/88881/bangladesh-telcos-pay-3rd-highest-spectrum-fee-in-s-se-asia-moodys>

### Capital Market

#### DSE to form expert panel to check IPO prospectuses

The securities regulator has advised the country's premier bourse to form an expert panel to scrutinize the upcoming initial public offerings (IPO) prospectus properly. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) chairman M Khairul Hossain advised the board of directors of the DSE to form the expert panel to assess the IPO prospectus of companies seeking to float IPOs, said a DSE statement. The securities regulator also assured that the commission will give approval to the IPO of a company if the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) expert panel would be satisfied with the company's financial statements. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting held at the BSEC head office in Dhaka on Thursday to ensure listing of quality IPOs in the stock market. The representatives from DSE and DSE Brokers' Association (DBA) were present, among others.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/dse-to-form-expert-panel-to-check-ipo-prospectuses-1572021146>

### Stocks

#### Brac Bank's net profit drops, Islami & Mercantile banks' increases slightly

In the first nine months of the current year, net profit of the Brac Bank has dropped, whereas that of the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and the Mercantile Bank has increased slightly. The Brac Bank has made a net profit of Tk340 crore in the first nine months of the year, which was Tk398 crore in the same period of the previous year. From January to September of 2019, earnings per share of the bank was Tk2.76, a drop from Tk3.23 compared to the same period last year. "The Brac Bank alone earned a profit of Tk376 crore, but its subsidiaries suffered a loss of Tk36 crore. Therefore, the consolidated net profit of the bank decreased," said a senior bank official on condition of anonymity.

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/banking/brac-banks-net-profit-drops-islami-mercantile-banks-increases-slightly>

#### Kohinoor Chemical to invest Tk3.5cr on business expansion

Kohinoor Chemical Company Ltd, a cosmetics and toiletries manufacturing company that sells products under the brand name Tibet, is going to invest Tk3.5 crores for expanding its business. To fund this expansion, for the 2018-19 fiscal, the company has proposed 20 percent cash dividends and 20 percent stock dividends for its shareholders. The decision was taken at the company's board meeting on Thursday. Kohinoor Chemical will issue around 3.5 million new shares through stock dividends at a face value of Tk10 per share. Through this, Kohinoor

Chemical will see a rise of Tk3.5 crores in its paid-up capital, which will be spent as working capital to expand its business.

<https://tbsnews.net/companies/kohinoor-chemical-invest-tk35cr-business-expansion>

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