

Capital Market Overview

The market closed positive this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+1.89%) gained 103.45 points and closed the week at 5,571.20 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+1.72%) gained 32.89 points and stood at 1,948.16 points. The shariah based index DSES (+0.86%) closed in green and stood at 1,257.64 points. DSEX, DS30, and DSES all posted negative YTD return of -10.78%, -14.68%, and -9.57% respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE) : BDT 10.1 billion (USD 121.0 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 5.0 billion ($\Delta\%$ Week: -23.4%)

Market P/E: 16.98x

Market P/B: 2.19x

Daily Index Movement during the Week:

The market performed two sessions during the week. Market opened this week with a positive movement of 1.29% in the first session and continued to be positive by 0.59% in the second session.

Sectoral Performance:

- All the financial sectors showed positive performance this week except Life Insurance (-0.24%). NBFIs posted the highest gain of 5.61% followed by Banks (+4.73%), Mutual Funds (+0.73%) and Life Insurance (+0.48%).
- Non-financial sectors showed positive movement this week except Engineering (-0.76%). Food & Allied recorded the highest gain of 1.44% followed by Pharmaceuticals (+0.42%), Power (+0.13%) and Telecommunication (+0.08%).

Macroeconomic arena:

- The weighted average rate (WAR) on call money has risen to around 4.50% on Sunday from 2.17% on August 12. The inter-bank call money rate has been showing an upward trend since August 12, mainly due to higher withdrawal of cash money from the banks ahead of the Eid. The trend may continue until today.
- Bangladesh would seek US investment in the country's proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the fourth TICFA meeting to be held in Washington on September 13, according to officials. Investment opportunities, market access for locally made products, customs and supplementary duty structure, labour issues and implementation of trade facilitation agreement will figure high on the agenda during the meeting.
- The amount of loans written off by banks increased six times year-on-year to Tk 141 crore in the first quarter of 2018 as the lenders used a central bank policy to clean up their books. This took the total written-off loans figure to BDT 480.53 billion.
- The government has decided to reduce both source tax and corporate tax for all exporters. The source tax will be 0.6% for exporters of all sectors, including those of readymade garments (RMG), leather, jute and frozen foods. Besides, the corporate tax rate will be 12% for apparel exporters. However, the rate will be 10% for apparel factories having green building certification.

Stock Market arena:

- The capital market regulator has suspended trading of stocks of Monno Jute Staffers, Bangladesh Autocars and Legacy Footwear with effect from today for 30 workdays due to their abnormal price hike. The regulator also formed a two-member committee and asked it to find in 30 workdays the reasons behind the abnormal price hike of Bangladesh Autocars and Legacy Footwear.
- Ifad Autos Limited (DSE: IFADAUTOS) an automobile dealer, has decided to purchase more 90 decimal of land for future expansion of the company's business. The total cost of the land is BDT 11.35 million.
- Majority of the mutual funds (MFs) declared lower dividends for their unit holders for the fiscal year 2017-18 due to the bearish trend in the secondary market. The trustee committees of 32 MFs, out of 37, have so far declared dividends. Of them, 17 announced lower dividends for the FY 2017-18 compared to the previous FY while eight higher, six similar and one zero dividend.

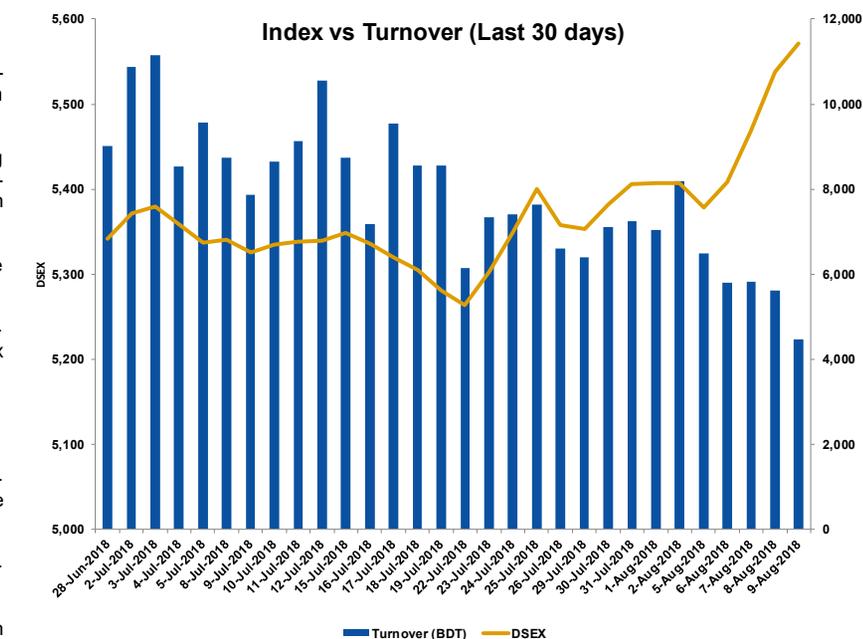
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing	Opening	Δ (Pts)	31-Dec-2016	$\Delta\%$ Week	$\Delta\%$ YTD
DSEX	5,571.20	5,467.74	103.45	6,244.52	1.89%	-10.78%
DS30	1,948.16	1,915.27	32.89	2,283.23	1.72%	-14.68%
DSES	1,257.64	1,246.90	10.74	1,390.67	0.86%	-9.57%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	%Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	7,819,912.7	15,358,004.2	-49.1%
	Mn USD	94,068.5	184,746.8	
Turnover	Mn BDT	10,058.9	26,275.9	-61.7%
	Mn USD	121.0	316.1	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	5,029.5	6,569.0	-23.4%
	Mn USD	60.5	79.0	
Volume	Mn Shares	363.4	780.3	-53.4%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

	Mcap						
	Close	Open	Δ%	(mn BDT)	Vol (mn BDT)	P/E	P/B
Midas Financing Ltd.	30.80	25.50	20.8%	4,074.7	57.31	22.8x	3.2x
Information Services Network Ltd.	23	19.10	19.4%	249.0	1.40	NM	1.6x
National Housing Fin. and Inv. Ltd.	56.40	47.60	18.5%	6,000.5	179.56	24.6x	3.7x
Premier Leasing	13.10	11.40	14.9%	1,659.0	35.83	11.1x	1.1x
Republic Insurance	26.30	23.10	13.9%	1,165.7	34.61	19.9x	2.1x
Padma Islami Life Insurance Limited	28.10	24.70	13.8%	1,092.5	6.44	NM	2.8x
BD Finance	15.70	13.90	12.9%	2,391.1	62.18	14.4x	1.1x
First Security Bank	12.10	10.80	12.0%	9,487.6	100.20	6.7x	0.8x
GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh) Limited	22.90	20.50	11.7%	2,959.2	98.11	9.8x	1.1x
IPDC	38.90	35.00	11.1%	8,486.5	111.81	28.0x	2.9x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

	Mcap						
	Close	Open	Δ%	(mn BDT)	Vol (mn BDT)	P/E	P/B
Aziz Pipes	173.00	210.60	-17.9%	881.0	5.91	318.7x	NM
Monno Ceramic	271.00	325.30	-16.7%	6,808.7	12.22	2586.8x	3.0x
Jute Spinners	73.40	86.00	-14.7%	124.8	.98	NM	NM
Dulamia Cotton	17.70	20.10	-11.9%	133.8	.68	NM	NM
Provati Insurance	20.80	23.50	-11.5%	617.8	41.29	12.2x	1.3x
Ambee Pharma	615.70	686.10	-10.3%	1,477.7	19.64	203.9x	24.8x
Renwick Jajneswar	837.00	932.60	-10.3%	1,674.0	5.44	271.3x	NM
Stylecraft Limited	2,703.20	2,995.10	-9.7%	2,676.2	7.21	92.7x	9.6x
Intraco Refueling Station Limited	29.40	32.20	-8.7%	2,205.0	44.23	NM	2.4x
Anwar Galvanizing	83.70	91.60	-8.6%	1,215.3	43.21	80.8x	9.8x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

	Mcap						
	Close	Open	Δ%	(mn BDT)	Vol (mn BDT)	P/E	P/B
Lankabangla Finance	30.00	28.00	7.1%	10,263.6	391.36	12.9x	1.8x
BBS Cables Limited	117.70	119.90	-1.8%	16,242.6	390.26	39.3x	7.1x
City Bank	35.70	33.10	7.9%	34,557.1	287.00	8.5x	1.4x
Dhaka Bank	17.00	16.40	3.7%	13,813.9	254.60	8.9x	0.9x
BRAC Bank	77.30	75.80	2.0%	82,634.6	207.69	21.3x	4.3x
United Power Generation & Distribution Company Ltd	330.80	331.30	-0.2%	132,068.3	203.84	31.6x	12.3x
National Housing Fin. and Inv. Ltd.	56.40	47.60	18.5%	6,000.5	179.56	24.6x	3.7x
International Leasing	17.10	15.90	7.5%	3,612.3	174.91	28.7x	1.4x
Mercantile Bank	20.40	19.80	3.0%	16,624.4	173.63	7.5x	1.0x
The Premier Bank	12.90	12.10	6.6%	10,321.0	165.41	6.4x	0.9x

Table 8: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Top 10 Most Appreciated Stocks	Close	Δ% YTD	Mcap (mn BDT)	P/E
Berger Paints	1,207.80	17.09%	56,015.2	27.7x
Mutual Trust Bank	35.30	13.46%	20,239.7	13.8x
Summit Power	38.50	7.24%	41,113.3	9.4x
Jamuna Bank	18.60	3.15%	13,935.6	7.8x
Marico Bangladesh Limited	1,130.50	2.21%	35,610.8	24.7x
Agni System Limited	22.20	1.37%	1,534.0	22.8x
Singer Bangladesh	196.50	0.51%	15,070.5	27.6x
Delta Brac Housing	135.60	-0.29%	16,523.1	21.0x
S. Alam Cold Rolled Steels	32.80	-1.80%	3,226.6	26.7x
BATBC	3,306.20	-2.80%	198,372.0	26.2x

Table 6: Sector Indices

	Week Close	Week Open	Year Open	%Δ Week	%Δ YTD
Banks	1547.73	1477.81	1848.21	4.73%	-16.26%
NBFIs	2347.64	2222.91	2714.85	5.61%	-13.53%
Mutual Funds	752.91	747.48	788.81	0.73%	-4.55%
General Insurance	1472.88	1465.90	1592.30	0.48%	-7.50%
Life Insurance	1747.81	1752.03	1834.85	-0.24%	-4.74%
Telecommunication	5187.84	5183.62	6494.31	0.08%	-20.12%
Pharmaceuticals	2630.50	2619.61	2821.05	0.42%	-6.75%
Fuel & Power	1722.56	1720.28	1527.27	0.13%	12.79%
Cement	1878.66	1853.36	2280.58	1.36%	-17.62%
Services & Real Estate	1080.37	1088.34	1224.11	-0.73%	-11.74%
Engineering	3097.88	3121.71	3166.83	-0.76%	-2.18%
Food & Allied	14003.49	13804.33	15304.34	1.44%	-8.50%
IT	1552.24	1559.46	1484.41	-0.46%	4.57%
Textiles	1333.57	1351.85	1222.72	-1.35%	9.07%
Paper & Printing	12297.06	12724.22	1013.11	-3.36%	1113.80%
Tannery	2698.62	2692.33	2642.41	0.23%	2.13%
Jute	6935.68	7052.60	8867.22	-1.66%	-21.78%
Ceramics	590.57	611.72	597.46	-3.46%	-1.15%
Miscellaneous	1875.93	1804.79	1725.62	3.94%	8.71%

Table 7: Sector Trading Matrix

	Daily average		% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
	this Week	last week				
Banks	1,353.3	819.8	65.07%	27.26%	9.9x	1.1x
NBFIs	774.9	348.5	122.36%	15.61%	22.1x	2.3x
Mutual Funds	49.2	50.1	-1.93%	0.99%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	147.0	116.6	26.04%	2.96%	13.4x	1.0x
Life Insurance	31.7	75.8	-58.23%	0.64%	NM	7.7x
Telecommunication	32.6	79.7	-59.07%	0.66%	22.8x	16.8x
Pharmaceuticals	302.3	423.6	-28.64%	6.09%	19.8x	3.3x
Fuel & Power	253.2	294.4	-14.00%	5.10%	14.6x	2.3x
Cement	44.7	53.8	-16.90%	0.90%	21.1x	3.5x
Services & Real Estate	75.3	110.1	-31.64%	1.52%	27.1x	0.9x
Engineering	595.9	1,164.7	-48.84%	12.01%	24.5x	2.3x
Food & Allied	110.5	219.1	-49.57%	2.23%	28.4x	10.0x
IT	115.5	154.0	-25.00%	2.33%	30.0x	3.2x
Textiles	739.7	1,382.0	-46.47%	14.90%	22.5x	1.2x
Paper & Printing	60.5	99.2	-39.00%	1.22%	NM	6.6x
Tannery	50.8	203.9	-75.09%	1.02%	20.6x	3.3x
Jute	16.5	17.0	-3.32%	0.33%	NM	2.9x
Ceramics	26.0	94.8	-72.54%	0.52%	28.5x	2.2x
Miscellaneous	184.1	276.3	-33.36%	3.71%	26.0x	1.3x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Top 10 Least Appreciated Stocks	Close	Δ% YTD	Mcap (mn BDT)	P/E
AB Bank	13.30	-39.82%	10,083.1	6.7x
United Airways (BD) Ltd.	3.70	-33.93%	2,543.0	13.1x
Lankabangla Finance	30.00	-32.53%	10,263.6	12.9x
Glaxo Smithkline	1,129.60	-27.16%	13,607.7	21.1x
Islami Bank	26.70	-27.05%	42,986.8	9.6x
EXIM Bank	12.70	-26.16%	17,935.6	6.1x
City Bank	35.70	-25.83%	34,557.1	8.5x
Eastern Bank	38.10	-25.44%	28,117.8	10.4x
Prime Bank	18.60	-25.33%	21,060.5	9.6x
RAK Ceramics Limited	41.30	-24.16%	16,068.3	17.6x

Important News: Business & Economy

Bangladesh Bank pumps BDT 3.6 billion into three banks

• The Bangladesh Bank (BB) injected funds amounting to nearly BDT 3.60 billion into three banks on Sunday to help minimise their cash withdrawal pressure ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, officials said. The central bank provided the funds to the banks using its assured liquidity support facility to help manage their funds smoothly. According to a senior officials from BB They have provided the funds to the banks at 6.00% rate. He also said BB may extend the liquidity facility today (Monday), the last working day before the Eid vacation, if any bank seeks such support against their treasury bills and bonds.

• The weighted average rate (WAR) on call money rose to around 4.50% on Sunday from 2.17% on August 12, another BB official said. The inter-bank call money rate has been showing an upward trend since August 12, mainly due to higher withdrawal of cash money from the banks ahead of the Eid. The trend may continue until today, according to the market operators.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-pumps-BDT-36b-into-three-banks-1534700824>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/eid-pushes-call-money-rate-1623319>

Four State-owned Banks to lend BDT 6.01 billion to tanners this Eid

• Four state-owned commercial banks (SoCBs) are set to provide BDT 6.01 billion in loans to tanners to help them purchase rawhide of sacrificial animals during this Eid-ul-Azha. The loan facility will be given to the country's 42 traders concerned this year. Around 40 tanners got loans amounting to BDT 5.26 billion during Eid-ul-Azha last year.

• Janata Bank is set to disburse the highest amount of loans to 32 tanners. It would give BDT 2.10 billion to their clients for purchasing rawhide during Eid, said a senior official of the state-owned bank. Rupali Bank will provide BDT 1.75 billion in loan to three parties. Agrani Bank Ltd will disburse BDT 1.46 billion to four clients and Sonali Bank BDT 700 million to three traders, according to sources with the state-run banks. Of the state-owned banks, Janata Bank disbursed the largest amount of credit worth BDT 2.01 billion last year, followed by Agrani Bank with BDT 1.20 billion, Rupali Bank BDT 1.35 billion and Sonali Bank BDT 700 million. Some private commercial banks are also going to disburse loans to the traders concerned on a limited scale.

• Currently, the total amount of banks' non-performing loans (NPLs) with the leather sector stood at BDT 5.0 billion. Most of the loans were disbursed in early 1990s. The government has lowered the price of rawhide and skins of sacrificial animals to BDT 45-50 per square foot (sq ft) in the capital during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. Last year, the price of rawhide and skins was BDT 50-55 per sq ft in the city.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-socbs-to-lend-BDT-601b-to-tanners-this-eid-1534700709>

Mobile data leads to internet boom

• The number of the country's active internet connections increased about 20% year-on-year to 87.8 million at the end of June on the back of fast-growing mobile internet and the government's push for digitalization. The internet industry added more than 14.4 million

active connections in the last one year, according to a report of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission published recently. Since the launch of 3G in September 2013, mobile internet connections rose 134.38%, driving digitalisation, said industry leaders.

• Mobile internet users numbered 82.0 million at the end of June, meaning out of the country's 150.9 million active mobile connections, 54.34% have internet connections. When 3G was launched, mobile internet connections stood at 365.0 million. The mobile industry added more than 10 million new connections every year on an average to their network in the last five years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/telecom/mobile-data-leads-internet-boom-1623310>

Work on 41 Savar tanneries yet to end

• Forty-one tanneries out of 154 are yet to commence operation at Savar Tannery Estate due to various reasons including unfinished construction work, according to Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). Of them, 15 to 20 tanneries are scheduled to go into operation before this Eid-ul-Azha while the remaining tanneries will be able to commence operation by 2018, according to the Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA). At present, only 40 tanneries are fully operational while the rest of the tanneries are partly operational.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/work-on-41-savar-tanneries-yet-to-end-1534700880>

Bangladesh to seek US investment in special economic zones

• Bangladesh would seek US investment in the country's proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the fourth TICFA meeting to be held in Washington on September 13, officials said. Investment opportunities, market access for locally made products, customs and supplementary duty structure, labour issues and implementation of trade facilitation agreement will figure high on the agenda during the meeting, they said.

• Local exporters are interested in manufacturing garment items using US cotton and export them to that country. One of the ministry officials said the US side would focus on the market access for American pharmaceutical products and cotton to Bangladesh. Bangladesh would raise the issue of preferential market access for Bangladeshi products as per the 9th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Bali, they said.

• Bangladesh's exports to the US stood at USD 5.27 billion last year. Garments fetched USD 5.06 billion, out of the total export earnings.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-to-seek-us-investment-in-special-economic-zones-1534698606>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48821/bangladesh-to-invite-us-to-invest-in-sezs>

Taxmen asked to prioritise VAT returns audit in same tax cycle

- The National Board of Revenue has asked its field offices to carry out scrutiny and other legal activities on Value-Added Tax returns on a priority basis during the same tax period of returns submission to realise lawful revenue, instead of claiming outstanding VAT after five to six years. The VAT wing of the NBR issued the instruction on Thursday to end harassment of VAT payers in the audit process and abate the risk of legal complexities.

- In the instruction issued to its 12 VAT commissionerates, the NBR said that it was the routine responsibility of the field offices to realise applicable and lawful VAT during the same tax cycle of returns submission. It may cause various types of problems both for businesses and tax offices if VAT officials do not perform the routine responsibilities properly and on time, it said.

- They also conduct intensive audit on five-year-old VAT returns but they can also go through returns of previous years based on suspicion and specific proof of VAT evasion or other related offences.

Businesses are also to preserve documents related to VAT payments of the last five years. NBR officials said that the VAT wing issued the directives after getting complaints from businesses, especially from the readymade garment sector. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association has been requesting the NBR to refrain from making demands for previous years' documents arguing that it causes extreme level of hassle for businesses.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48822/taxmen-asked-to-prioritise-vat-returns-audit-in-same-tax-cycle>

Written-off loans reach BDT 480.53 billion

- The amount of loans written off by banks increased six times year-on-year to BDT 14.1 billion in the first quarter of 2018 as the lenders used a central bank policy to clean up their books. This took the total written-off loans figure to BDT 480.53 billion since January 2003 when the policy was introduced. BDT 247.6 million was written off in the January-March quarter last year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

- Of the six banks that used the facility to clean up their balance sheets, Premier Bank topped the chart as it removed bad debts worth BDT 640 million from its book. Eastern Bank wrote off BDT 552 million. State-owned banks wrote off BDT 226.18 billion and private banks BDT 238.18 billion in the quarter. Two state-run specialised banks—Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank—wrote off BDT 5.55 billion and foreign commercial banks BDT 10.55 billion. Between January 2003 and March 2018, BDT 480.53 billion were written off. Of the amount, 78% remained outstanding, meaning banks' efforts to recover the bad loans haven't paid off.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/written-loans-reach-BDT-48053cr-1622860>

Call rate rise unlikely ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

- The inter-bank call money rate is unlikely to rise ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, as the overall excess liquidity with the banks increased by over 22% or BDT 171 billion in this June. The call money rate has been showing an upward trend since August 12, mainly due to higher withdrawal of cash money from the banks ahead of the Eid, according to the market

operators. The trend may continue until August 20, the last working day before the Eid vacation, they explained, while ruling out any possible significant increase in the call rate.

- The call money rate ranged between 0.70% and 5.0% on Tuesday against the previous range between 0.25% and 5.0% on Sunday. The weighted average rate (WAR) on call money rose to 3.29% on August 14 from 2.17% two days ago, according to the Bangladesh Bank's (BB) latest statistics. The volume of overall transactions in the market reached BDT 103.07 billion on August 14 from BDT 84.89 billion on August 12. The call money rate witnessed an upward trend on Thursday. They added that most of the deals were settled at rates varying between 4.0% and 5.0% on the day.

- The call money rate is unlikely to cross maximum 5.0% ahead of the upcoming Eid, they predicted. The market insiders said most of the banks took necessary measures by holding adequate liquidity to avoid any possible pressure on the money market ahead of the Eid. Some banks are now holding excess liquidity that may be used to meet the growing demand for cash before the Eid, they added. The weighted average yield (WAY) on 07-Day BB Bills came down to 0.03% on August 13 from 0.05% on August 08, the BB data showed.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/call-rate-rise-unlikely-ahead-of-eid-ul-azha-1534442181>

Government cuts source tax to 0.6% for all exporters

- The government has decided to reduce both source tax and corporate tax for all exporters to support them to stay competitive in the international market. The source tax will be 0.6% for exporters of all sectors, including those of readymade garments (RMG), leather, jute and frozen foods. Besides, the corporate tax rate will be 12% for apparel exporters. However, the rate will be 10% for apparel factories having green building certification.

- In the budget for the current fiscal year (FY), 2018-19, the source tax for exporters was increased to 1.0% from 0.7%. Corporate tax rate for apparel exporters was also adjusted upward to 15%, and it was 12% for apparel exporters having green building certification. The reduced tax rates will come into force with retrospective effect from July 01, 2018.

- In FY 2017-18, the country's export income recorded a moderate growth of 5.81% to USD 36.66 billion, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data. Apparel, jute and leather sectors together fetched about USD 32.71 billion in last FY. Of the sectors, RMG export earning posted an 8.76% growth to USD 30.61 billion. Export of leather footwear grew by 5.33% in last FY compared to that of the previous year. However, total export earning from leather and leather products fell by 12.03%.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-cuts-source-tax-to-06pc-for-all-exporters-1534609990>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/tax-cuts-cheer-apparel-exporters-1622866>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48753/bangladesh-set-to-cut-rmg-export-tax-by-40pc-corporate-tax-by-20pc>

Legal barrier keeps foreign insurers from going public

- A policy barrier stands in the way of American life insurer MetLife being listed with the local stock exchanges. Since the lone foreign insurance company is not registered in

Bangladesh, it cannot collect fund from local people by divesting shares, according to the local insurance law. The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) recently informed the Ministry of Finance (MoF) about the policy barrier, which keeps foreign insurance companies out of Bangladesh's stock market. The IDRA updated the ministry since the government has long been trying to bring multinational companies into the stock markets for the supply of good issues to investors.

- In mid-July, the Ministry of Finance asked the IDRA to provide updated information about whether any multinational insurance company could be listed with the bourses. Officials said according to the Insurance Act 2010, a locally-registered insurance company must have BDT 300 million in paid-up capital. Of the total amount, 60% should be owned by sponsor directors while the rest be collected from the general public. In line with the insurance law, the locally registered insurance companies collect 40% of their paid-up capitals by listing them with the bourses.

- However, the law says that the insurance companies registered abroad must have BDT 300 million in paid-up capital, but the money has to be collected from outside Bangladesh. The IDRA said that the act did not keep option for collecting money from the general public by the insurance companies registered abroad. Therefore, there is no scope for MetLife to be listed in the stock market, it noted. In 2017, MetLife received over BDT 5.76 billion in premium, official statistics show.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/legal-barrier-keeps-foreign-insurers-from-going-public-1534527090>

Refrigerator sales pace up ahead of Eid

- Sales of refrigerators in city markets have marked a significant rise ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The demand for the home appliance usually goes up during the time of this religious festival every year for the preservation of meat of sacrificial animals, they said. Besides, various brands try to lure customers with offer of gifts and discounts on fridges to boost their sales. Sources said around 35% of the total annual sales of refrigerators takes place ahead of Eid-ul-Azha across the country.

- During visits to several shopping malls in the city, including Bashundhara City and Bangabandhu Stadium market, this correspondent found most of the fridge showrooms packed with customers. Traders have also increased stock levels to meet the growing demand. Branch manager of Butterfly Marketing Limited at the stadium market, said sales of both refrigerators and freezer (commonly known as deep fridge) have seen a significant growth in recent times. He added that their refrigerators with a capacity of 250 litre to 300 litre are the most-sold items.

- The price of a 250-litre freezer starts from BDT 30,000. A salesman of Esquire Electronics limited, the distributor of Japanese Sharp refrigerators, said they offer equated monthly installment (EMI) facility at zero% interest rate for up to 18 months and free home delivery to attract customers. Customers mostly opt for 160-litre and 210-litre freezers, whose prices are BDT 25,000 and BDT 30,900 respectively. According to his estimate, around one-third of total annual sales takes place ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/refrigerator-sales-pace-up-ahead-of-eid-1534436412>

Pricy mobile call rate decision must be scrapped

- Political leaders and mobile phone customers on Saturday urged the government to cancel its uniform floor rate decision that has made the mobile users pay more for phone calls. The uniform floor rate of BDT 0.45 per minute came into effect from 12:01am on August 14 following a Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission order.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48754/pricy-mobile-call-rate-decision-must-be-scrapped>

Powerchina to expand its footprint in Bangladesh

- Chinese state-owned company Powerchina is aiming to boost its presence in Bangladesh's power, infrastructure and water treatment sector. Increased investment in these sectors is vital for Bangladesh's future development process, the company officials have said this week. According to the executive Vice President of Powerchina, So far, they have completed 10 projects in Bangladesh in the areas of power, river training, municipal works and road construction. The total worth of these projects is around USD 750 million. At the same time, they have 12 ongoing projects amounting to USD 4.64 billion in the fields of power, river training works, sewerage treatment plant and railway construction

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/powerchina-to-expand-its-footprint-in-bd-1534701142>

edotco receives approval for tower sharing licence

- edotco Bangladesh ("edotco BD"), an integrated telecommunications infrastructure services company in Bangladesh, has been selected by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to obtain a conditional tower sharing license. Upon completion of the conditions, this license will allow edotco to build and manage telecommunications towers for multiple mobile network operators in the country, said a statement. edotco BD, has been at the forefront of the country's tower infrastructure landscape since 2013, providing end-to-end solutions in the tower services sector from tower leasing, co-locations, build-to-suit, energy management, transmission and operations and maintenance.

- The company recently announced Getco, a prominent Bangladesh-based conglomerate as a 30% shareholder and strategic partner. Through its subsidiary Greencon Tower Company Limited, Getco will partner with edotco to provide next-generation infrastructure to meet the country's growing connectivity needs.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/edotco-receives-approval-for-tower-sharing-licence-1534522510>

Important News: Capital Market

IFAD Autos to purchase land for expansion

- IFAD Autos, an automobile dealer, has decided to purchase more 90 decimal of land adjacent to its factory at Dhamrai for future expansion of the company's business. The total cost of the land is BDT 11.35 million, including all land development cost, registration fees and other expenses, and the amount shall be paid from the own fund, said a disclosure

posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Thursday. Within three months, the engineering sector company announced to purchase a total of 724 decimal of land at a cost of BDT 65.50 million.

- Earlier on July 8 last, the company declared to purchase 190 decimal of land at a cost of BDT 2.47 million. On June 7 last, it announced to buy 444.25 decimal of land at a cost of BDT 2.94 million, including all registration fees. The engineering sector company, which was listed on the DSE in 2015, floated 21.25 million ordinary shares at an offer price of BDT 30 each, including BDT 20 as premium, and raised a fund of BDT 637.50 million. The company's earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 5.40 for July 2017-March 2018 against BDT 3.61 for July 2016-March 2017.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/ifad-autos-to-purchase-land-for-expansion-1534437912>

Most Mutual Funds declare lower dividends

- Majority of the mutual funds (MFs) declared lower dividends for their unit holders for the fiscal year 2017-18 due to the bearish trend in the secondary market. The trustee committees of 32 MFs, out of 37, have so far declared dividends. Of them, 17 announced lower dividends for the FY 2017-18 compared to the previous FY while eight higher, six similar and one zero dividend.

- Stock analysts blamed lack of professionalism and integrity in managing the funds for the sorry state of the mutual fund sector. The performance of many mutual funds was not lucrative also as the net asset value (NAV) at market price of most of these funds was lower than the NAV at cost price, said an analyst. Of the 37 closed-end funds on the premier bourse, 31 were trading below their face values at present, according to data from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/most-mfs-declare-lower-dividends-1534602692>

Regulator suspends trading of three stocks

- The capital market regulator has suspended trading of stocks of Monno Jute Staffers, Bangladesh Autocars and Legacy Footwear with effect from today for 30 workdays due to their abnormal price hike. Price of Monno Jute's share jumped 5.7 times to Tk 4,639 in six months while Legacy Footwear rose four times to Tk 272 and Bangladesh Autocars three times to Tk 457 in only four months. On Thursday, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) gave the order in line with the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969.

- The regulator also formed a two-member committee and asked it to find in 30 workdays the reasons behind the abnormal price hike of Bangladesh Autocars and Legacy Footwear. Another investigation was conducted for Monno Jute's rise and the regulator would disclose the report soon. However, the authorities of all the three companies denied having any price sensitive information which could have fuelled the prices. The stockmarket watchdog also decided to send five companies—Monno Ceramic Industries, Kay & Que (Bangladesh), Aziz Pipes, Stylecraft, and Dragon Sweater—to “spot trading” due to their abnormal price hike.

- In spot trading, an investor is allowed to purchase shares of a company only when his account has cash money. No one is allowed to purchase shares against sales of shares or loan. Monno Ceramic's price doubled to Tk 387 while Kay & Que soared 66 percent to Tk 233, Aziz Pipes 89 percent to Tk 269, Stylecraft 126 percent to Tk 2,995 and Dragon Sweater 177 percent to Tk 50.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/regulator-suspends-trading-three-stocks-1622857>