

Stock Market

Dhaka stocks flat ahead of Eid holidays

New Age, August 05, 2019

- Dhaka stocks ended flat on Sunday as a section of investors sold off their holdings ahead of Eid-ul-Azha holidays while the others, encouraged by good financial disclosures by listed firms, continued buying shares. Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange will remain closed in August 9-17 for weekly and Eid holidays.
- DSEX, the key index of the DSE, gained 0.06 %, or 3.12 points, to close at 5,172.86 points on Sunday. The index gained 47.82 points in last three sessions. The average share prices of the mutual fund sector plunged by 3.9 % on Sunday and 22 % in last six sessions.
- The market has been looking at regaining its footings after a quickfire 8 % decline in July 1-22 over a host of issues including People's Leasing and Financial Services' liquidation move and penalty tax on listed companies.
- Out of the 353 scrips traded on Sunday, 152 advanced, 167 declined and 33 remained unchanged. Turnover on the bourse dipped to BDT 463.85 crore on Sunday from BDT 481.16 crore in the previous session. DS30, the blue-chip index of DSE, shed 0.09 %, or 1.71 points, to close at 1,836.78 points.
- DSE Shariah index DSES gained 0.14 %, or 1.75 points, to close at 1,193.94 points. Monno Ceramics led the turnover chart with its shares worth BDT 25.51 crore changing hands.
- United Power Generation Company, Fortune Shoes, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Genex Infosys, Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals, Beacon Pharmaceuticals, Silco Pharmaceuticals, BBS Cables and Stylecraft were the other turnover leaders.
- Al-Haj Textile Mills gained the most on the day with a 9.96-% increase in its share prices while SEML Lecture Equity Management Fund was the worst loser, shedding 10 %.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/80689/dhaka-stocks-flat-ahead-of-eid-holidays>

Controversial Coppertech debuts today

New Age, August 04, 2019

- Trading of the shares of controversial Coppertech Industries begins on the country's two stock exchanges today despite the fact that the company is yet to be cleared of allegations of faking paid-up capital formation and fabricating its financial accounts.
- The Dhaka Stock Exchange on July 30 set the date for the company's debut on the bourse in line with a Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission order. With knowledge over the financial data engineering by the company, the stock market regulator on July 24 asked the DSE to enlist Coppertech within 10 working days.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh declined to renew licence of the auditor as the auditor refused to give the ICAB working documents related to Copperetch's accounts auditing. The ICAB failed to complete a probe into the allegations against the company due to the auditor's non-cooperation.

- The bank statements that the company submitted with IPO documents showed a number of unusual and suspicious transactions on share money deposit (money for selling shares) that raised question about its paid-up capital formation.
- Coppertech on Sunday declared profit growth at BDT 3.4 crore in the July, 2018-March, 2019 period from that of BDT 3.2 crore in the same period in the previous year. But, the company's earnings per share declined to BDT 0.87 from BDT 1.62 due to a rise in the number of its paid-up shares.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/80690/controversial-coppertech-debuts-today>

Shafique UI Azam new BD Venture MD

The Daily Star, August 05, 2019

- Shafique UI Azam has recently joined BD Venture Limited as managing director. The board of directors appointed him at its 37th meeting, according to a statement.
- Azam started his career with MIDAS in November 1986. He had been serving MIDAS and MIDAS Financing for 32 years. He worked in different management positions of MIDAS Financing including as managing director for nine years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shafique-ul-azam-new-bd-venture-md-1781935>

Economy

'BB circular soon for implementing single-digit interest rates'

The Financial Express, August 05, 2019

- The Bangladesh Bank will issue a circular immediately asking the scheduled banks to ensure single-digit interest rates on both lending and deposit. The BB circular will ask the scheduled banks to bring down the interest rates on lending and deposit to 9.0 % and 6.0 % respectively.
- Kamal informed that sixteen banks, including seven state-own banks, have already charged single-digit lending rate and all banks will also bring down their interest rates to a single digit.

<http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-circular-soon-for-implementing-single-digit-interest-rates-1564933480>

Banks asked to keep open branches at industrial areas on Aug 9, 10

New Age, August 04, 2019

- Bangladesh Bank on Sunday asked all the commercial banks to keep their branches located at industrial areas open on August 9 and 10 to facilitate disbursement of wages and festival allowances to readymade garment workers by factory owners and keep international trade uninterrupted.

- In a directive, the central bank asked the chief executive officers of banks to keep open the respective branches in Dhaka city, Ashulia, Tongi, Gazipur, Savar, Bhaluka, Narayanganj and Chattogram during the two days which were weekly holidays.
- CEOs were also asked to take sufficient measures to ensure proper security of the branches, according to the directive. The three-day Eid holidays will begin on next Sunday (11 August). Eid will be celebrated across the country on August 12.
- Most of the RMG factory owners have yet to disburse salaries, Eid bonus and other allowances to apparel workers. The government on Sunday at a meeting asked the factory owners to pay wages and festival allowances to RMG workers before vacations.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/80691/banks-asked-to-keep-open-branches-at-industrial-areas-on-aug-9-10>

53.8 lakh jobs will be at stake

The Daily Star, August 05, 2019

- Some 53.8 lakh jobs spread across five specialised industries -- garment, food and agriculture, furniture, tourism and hospitality, and leather and footwear -- are at risk for the impending fourth industrial revolution, found a recent study.
- The study -- Future Skills -- conducted by Access to Information (a2i) programme under the ICT Division along with some local and international experts between May and October last year found the jobs will disappear within the next two decades for adoption of new technologies.
- Of the five sectors, garment will be the worst hit, with as many as 60 % or 27 lakh jobs vanishing by 2041, found the study that was completed in December last year but unveiled yesterday at a programme held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka. The paper stressed the need for training to combat the upcoming challenge.

AUTOMATION IMPACT BY 2041

Jobs at risk (sector-wise):

Garment:	60% or 27 lakh
Furniture:	60% or 13.8 lakh
Food and agro-processing:	40% or 6 lakh
Footwear:	35% or 1 lakh
Tourism and hospitality:	20% or 6 lakh

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/538-lakh-jobs-will-be-stake-1781968>

International

China July factory activity falls amid tariff war

The Financial Express, August 05, 2019

- The factory activity in China contracted in July for a third month amid a tariff war with US and weak domestic demand. According to a monthly index, released on Wednesday by an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing stood at 49.7 on a 100-point scale.
- That was up 0.3 points from the previous month but still below the 50-point mark that shows activity contracting, reports AP. The data indicate China's economic downturn was slowing, said a logistics federation statement. But it said the economy still faced "downward pressure."

- Chinese exporters have been hurt by US President Donald Trump's tariff hikes in a dispute over Beijing's technology policies and trade surplus. Consumer demand also has weakened, hurt by uncertainty about the second largest economic outlook.
- The country's economic growth fell to 6.2 % over a year ago in the quarter ending in June, its lowest level since 1993. US and Chinese trade negotiators met Wednesday but economists said an early breakthrough was unlikely.
- Chinese leaders have tried to shore up economic activity by pumping money into building highways and other public works. That has supported demand for construction materials but failed to reverse the overall downturn. Exports of Chinese goods to the United States fell 7.8% in June from a year earlier. China's global exports sank 1.3 %.

<http://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/global/china-july-factory-activity-falls-amid-tariff-war-1564561701>

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