

Stock Market & Company

Dhaka stocks gain for 2nd day on new year hope

NewAge, December 30, 2019

- Dhaka stocks gained for the second on Sunday as a section of investors continued with bargain hunting in the hope that the market might turn around at the beginning of the new year while the others remained cautious on the trading floor.
- DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 0.34 per cent, or 15.10 points, to close at 4,433.94 points on Sunday after adding 28.16 points in the previous session. Before the two-day gain, the DSEX lost 66 points in three sessions.
- The market started gaining at the very beginning on Sunday and maintained the vibe till the end of the session as a section of investors kept bargain hunting, market operators said. They said that some investors anticipated that the market might turn around at the beginning of the new year, a trend seen in the last couple of years.
- They said that the share prices of most of the companies dropped significantly in 2019, which became an opportunity for investors to buy stocks at low prices.
- The market lost more than 1,500 points in last 11 months' rout that eroded almost BDT 80,000 crore in market capitalisation. The media report that finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal would hold a meeting with the DSE board on January 2 to discuss the current market situation also drew attention of some investors, market operators said. At the meeting, the DSE will place a proposal over improving the market situation, DSE officials said.
- Turnover on the DSE declined to BDT 300.77 crore on Sunday from BDT 305.06 crore in the previous trading session.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/95041/dhaka-stocks-gain-for-2nd-day-on-new-year-hope>

Shakil, Shahjahan elected DSE directors

NewAge, December 30, 2019

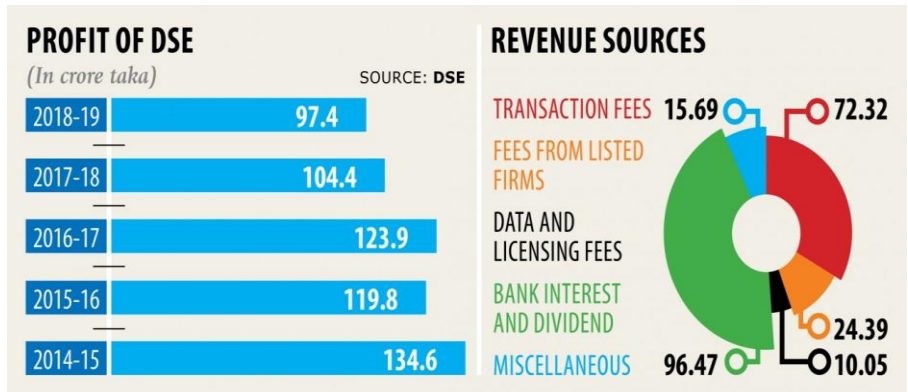
- Shakil Rizvi Stock managing director Shakil Rizvi and Jahan Securities managing director Mohammad Shahjahan were on Sunday elected shareholder-directors of the Dhaka Stock Exchange for a three-year tenure.
- According to the result declared by the DSE election commission, 178 out of the 259 voters cast their votes for electing two shareholder-directors from three contestants. Shamim Afzal, chief executive officer of Desa Securities, was the other candidate.
- Shakil was president of the bourse in 2010 and vice-president in 2009 and served as director from 2004 to 2009.
- Shahjahan served as the DSE director from 2004 to 2007 and in 2010. Shakil and Shahjahan will replace SAR Securities managing director Sharif Ataur Rahman and Rapid Securities managing director Hanif Bhuiya.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/95040/shakil-shahjahan-elected-dse-directors>

DSE profits contract as investors flee

The Daily Star, December 30, 2019

- Dhaka Stock Exchange's profits dropped 6.70 percent year-on-year to BDT 97.4 crore in fiscal 2018-19 as a narrow product range and lacklustre stock market ward off investors. "This is the lowest in 10 years," said Mizanur Rahman, a stock market analyst.



- The premier bourse is heavily dependent on bank interest income: about 43 percent of its revenue in fiscal 2018-19 came from bank deposits.
- In contrast, the neighbouring country's Bombay Stock Exchange logged only 5.67 percent of its total revenue from this source for the year that ended on March 31. The rate is much lower in the US stock exchange Nasdaq, which registered only 0.23 percent of its income from bank interest as of December 31 last year.
- The DSE's second highest income came from transaction fees, which was BDT 72.32 crore.
- The bourse failed to bring in new products and jump start the bond market, Rahman said, adding that many left the market too.
- The bourse's daily average turnover also fell 5.25 percent to BDT 613 crore though the number of shares rose.
- The total number of beneficiary owners' account is 25.78 lakh, which is about 1.50 percent of the total population of about 17 crore, according to the Central Depository Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-profits-contract-investors-flee-1846996>

Economy and Industry

Another boost for flat buyers

Stamp duty cut

The Daily Star, December 30, 2019

- The government has slashed the stamp duty on property registration by half to 1.5 percent of the deed value as part of its efforts to resuscitate the real estate sector that has been struggling for the past few years.
- "This is going to have a positive impact," said Farhaduzzaman, marketing in-charge of Eastern Housing, the country's first real estate company.
- The move by the finance ministry came amid repeated pleas from realtors to cut registration costs of property to give a respite to middle-income families who want to own homes.

- Following the tax cut, the total registration cost -- excluding advance income tax -- of flats of up to 1,601 square feet came down to 11.5 percent of the deed value from 13 percent previously.
- For bigger apartments, total registration cost would drop to 14 percent, according to the Eastern Housing official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/another-boost-flat-buyers-1846960>

Overseas jobs to fall by 10pc this year

The Financial Express, December 30, 2019

- The overseas jobs for Bangladeshi workers would fall by 10 per cent at the end of 2019 compared to that of the previous year as estimated by a new study. The amount of inward remittance, however, is expected to rise by about 17.05 per cent over the last year to stand at USUSD 18.19 billion by the year end.
- The study said the inward remittance during the year increased mainly due to the cash incentives provided by the government to encourage migrant workers for sending money through formal channels, said the RMMRU report.
- The overseas jobs for Bangladeshi workers shrank mainly due to the closure of Malaysian labour market, RMMRU founding chair Tasneem Siddiqui said while presenting the report. Only 400 workers went to Malaysia until November 2019.
- A total of 604,060 Bangladeshi workers went abroad with jobs from January to November period of 2019, according to the report. About 89 per cent workers migrated to Arab and Gulf countries while 11 per cent to other countries. More than 0.7 mn workers migrated abroad in the last year.
- Bangladeshi expatriates sent home a total of USD 16.67 billion in remittance till November this year - highest 19.87 per cent from Saudi Arabia, followed by 14.99 per cent from the UAE and 11.25 per cent from the US, the report said. Referring to a foreign ministry report, it said 9,177 female migrant workers took shelters at Bangladesh embassy's safe home from 2015 to October 2019. Of them, 8,637 female workers came back home.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/overseas-jobs-to-fall-by-10pc-this-year-1577678989>

Iftekhar elected ABB chairman

NewAge, December 30, 2019

- Eastern Bank Limited managing director and chief executive officer Ali Reza Iftekhar has been elected chairman of the Association of Banks, Bangladesh Limited for the next two-year term (2020-21).
- Iftekhar's election as chairman came from the ABB's 22nd annual general meeting held in the capital on Saturday. Before the new term, he was the ABB chairman for two-year tenure (2014-15).
- The forum of the managing directors of private commercial banks has also elected Prime Bank MD and CEO Rahel Ahmed as its secretary general.
- The ABB has also elected Exim Bank MD and CEO Haider Ali, NRB Bank MD and CEO Mehmood Hossain and Sonali Bank MD and CEO Ataur Rahman Prodhan as vice-chairmen of the forum.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/95039/iftekhar-elected-abb-chairman>

International

India's tourism industry hit hard by citizenship law protests

NewAge, December 30, 2019

- India's tourism industry is grappling amid a wave of violent anti-government protests across the country against a new citizenship law. At least seven countries have so far issued travel warnings in visiting India, reports Al Jazeera.
- At least 25 people have been killed in clashes between police and protesters, and demonstrations against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which critics see as anti-Muslim.
- The United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Israel, Singapore, Canada and Taiwan have issued travel advisories asking their citizens to either refrain from visiting or to exercise caution when visiting regions embroiled in India's protests.
- Officials estimate that in the past two weeks, about 2,00,000 domestic and international tourists cancelled or postponed their trips to the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most popular tourist attractions.
- Travel agents at India's popular beach city of Goa said that the number of foreign tourists had fallen sharply in recent months compared with the same period last year following the collapse of British travel company Thomas Cook and ongoing unrest surrounding CAA in different parts of the country, reports Times of India.
- 'There has been a 60 per cent decline in visitor footfalls in December this year [compared to last year],' said Dinesh Kumar, a police inspector overseeing a special tourist police station near the Taj Mahal who has access to visitor data, according to Aljazeera report.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/95049/indias-tourism-industry-hit-hard-by-citizenship-law-protests>

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