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Bangladesh targets top-20 position in global telecom services: PM's telecom adviser

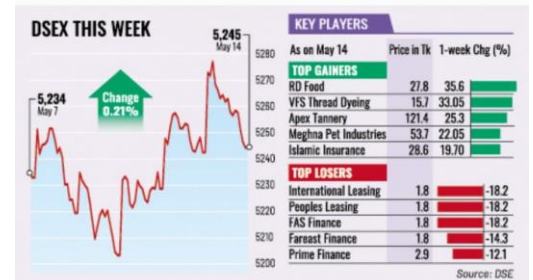
Oil prices climb more than 3% on fears of new US-Iran combat

Stock Market & Company

Stocks edge up on bargain hunting

The Financial Express, May 16, 2026

- Stocks ended the week marginally higher, snapping a two-week losing streak as bargain hunters rushed to accumulate oversold shares, helping the benchmark index regain footing after a period of sustained bearish pressure.
- DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), settled at 5,245 points on Thursday, registering an increase of 11 points or 0.21 per cent, a modest but psychologically significant recovery. The index had shed 65 points over the previous two sessions.
- Market analysts said opportunistic investors targeted fundamentally strong large-cap stocks at attractive valuations, supporting the rebound despite an overall cautious sentiment.
- Throughout the week, trading was driven by a mix of earnings expectations, selective sector rotation and geopolitical uncertainty, particularly concerns over ongoing tensions in the Middle East, which kept many investors on the sidelines.
- The week began on a weak note, extending the previous losing streak through the first two trading sessions amid inflationary pressure and energy price volatility.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/stocks-edge-up-on-bargain-hunting>

British American Tobacco Bangladesh cigarette sales fall 14%, Q1 profit drops 34%

The Business Standard, May 14, 2026

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh reported a sharp downturn in the first quarter of 2026, with cigarette sales volumes falling about 14% or 150.7 crore while profit plunging 34%, reflecting mounting pressure from inflation, higher taxes, and weaker consumer spending in Bangladesh.
- The company also stated a 34% decline in profit to Tk209.50 crore, with earnings per share (EPS) of Tk3.88 in Q1. During the same period of the previous year, its profit was Tk317.95 crore while EPS stood at Tk5.89.
- As sales volume declined, its gross revenue also fell by 9.08% to Tk8,725 crore during the January–March quarter, according to its financial statements published today (14 May) through the stock exchanges.
- Following the disclosure, its share price fell by 1.52% to Tk214 at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- The statement showed that the company sold 923.1 crore cigarette sticks in Q1, down from 1,073.9 crore sticks in the same period of 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/british-american-tobacco-bangladesh-cigarette-sales-fall-14-q1-profit-drops-34>

Bata Shoe posts Tk37cr profit in Q1

The Business Standard, May 14, 2026

- Bata Shoe Company in Bangladesh, a listed company on the stock exchanges, has posted Tk37.12 crore in the first quarter of 2026, a slight increase from Tk36.83 crore in the same time of the previous year, according to its financial statements.
- While its revenue surged 6% to Tk379 crore supported by strong Eid-season demand, strategic business execution, and continued consumer confidence, said a press release.
- In a board of directors meeting held on Thursday approved the quarterly financials of the company.
- During the first quarter, its earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk27.14, which was Tk26.92 at the same time of the previous year.
- In a press release it said, Bata Shoe achieved a new milestone through strong business performance in the first quarter of 2026. Despite ongoing global economic uncertainty and changing local market conditions, the company posted remarkable results during the January-March 2026 quarter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bata-shoe-posts-tk37cr-profit-q1-1439436>

Techno Drugs to issue Tk50cr bond to restructure high-cost debt

The Business Standard, May 14, 2026

- Techno Drugs Limited has decided to issue a coupon-bearing bond worth Tk50 crore to restructure its high-cost bank loans, as the pharmaceutical company faces declining profits alongside a sharp rise in long-term debt.
- The decision was approved at the company's board meeting held on Thursday.
- According to a price-sensitive disclosure, the proposed five-year bond will be structured as 25% redeemable and 75% convertible. The initiative is subject to approval from shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) scheduled for 24 June, as well as clearance from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). MTB Capital Limited has been appointed as issue manager and arranger.
- Company Secretary SM Abu Talha Siddik told The Business Standard that the primary objective of the bond is to manage the company's high-cost bank liabilities more efficiently.
- The move comes at a sensitive time for the drugmaker, as One Bank PLC has recently filed a case in the Money Loan Court against the company and its directors to recover defaulted loans worth around Tk150 crore. The court has already issued a public notice summoning the directors in connection with the case.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/techno-drugs-issue-tk50cr-bond-restructure-high-cost-debt-1440986>

Foreign investors pull out Tk124cr in April as risk-aversion intensifies

The Business Standard, May 16, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed a massive retreat by international investors in April, as a combination of escalating global geopolitical tensions and persistent domestic structural hurdles triggered a wave of heavy selling.
- Data from the premier bourse revealed a stark imbalance in foreign participation, with overseas investors offloading shares worth Tk124.14 crore while injecting only a meagre Tk12.06 crore into the market.
- This lopsided trade reflects a deepening sense of caution among global fund managers, who appear to be scaling back their exposure to frontier markets in favour of safer havens amidst a volatile international landscape, according to the market insiders.

- The overall participation of foreign investors saw a dramatic contraction during the month. Total foreign turnover in April stood at Tk136.2 crore, which was exactly 50% lower than the turnover recorded in March.
- This decline in trading volume suggests that foreign institutional investors are not only selling off their positions but are also hesitant to engage in fresh buying, leading to a significant reduction in market liquidity, said insiders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/foreign-investors-pull-out-tk124cr-april-risk-aversion-intensifies-1440996>

Economy & Industry

Leather sector can become \$12b export industry if fully utilised: Industries minister

The Daily Star, May 16, 2026

- Bangladesh's leather industry could grow into a \$12 billion export sector if the country fully utilises its annual leather production, Industries Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir said today (16 May).
- "The leather sector, which has strong potential, has failed to progress as expected due to years of negligence and mismanagement after the relocation of tanneries from Hazaribagh to Savar in 2017," the minister told reporters after a meeting with tannery owners, business leaders and stakeholders at the conference room of the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar.
- Representatives from the Bangladesh Tanners Association and the Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters' Association attended the meeting.
- Muktadir, who also serves as the minister for industry, textiles, and jute noted that the country's export sector is heavily dominated by the RMG industry, which holds around 85% of total exports.
- Following the meeting, he visited the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at the industrial estate, acknowledging operational constraints during peak production periods.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/leather-sector-can-become-12b-export-industry-if-fully-utilised-industries-minister>

Bangladesh targets top-20 position in global telecom services: PM's telecom adviser

The Business Standard, May 16, 2026

- Bangladesh plans to position itself among the world's top 20 countries in telecom and technology services within the next five years through a holistic digital economy strategy focused on connectivity, affordable access, startup growth, electronics manufacturing and skilled human resources.
- The vision was outlined by Rehan Asad, the prime minister's adviser on telecom and ICT, at a seminar titled "Telecom future: new government's vision" organised by the Telecom and Technology Reporters' Network Bangladesh (TRNB) at InterContinental Dhaka today.
- Faqir Mahbub Anam, minister for telecom and ICT, and Md Emdad Ul Bari were also present at the programme.
- "We are not only aiming to become a top-20 subscriber country, we want to become a top-20 service-quality country," Rehan said, noting that Bangladesh already ranks among the top countries globally in terms of telecom subscribers but lags behind in service quality indicators.
- According to different estimates, the telecom and ICT sector's current contribution to Bangladesh's GDP ranges from less than 1 percent to around 6 percent, but the figure could rise to 15 percent if the government develops a supportive ecosystem around the industry, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-targets-top-20-position-global-telecom-services-pms-telecom-adviser-4177176>

International

Oil prices climb more than 3% on fears of new US-Iran combat

The Daily Star, May 16, 2026

- Oil prices gained more than 3 percent on Friday, after comments by US President Donald Trump and Iran's foreign minister further dented hopes of a deal to end ship attacks and seizures around the Strait of Hormuz.
- Brent crude futures settled at \$109.26 a barrel, up \$3.54, or 3.35 percent. US West Texas Intermediate futures finished at \$105.42 a barrel, up \$4.25, or 4.2 percent.
- Over the week, Brent has climbed 7.84 percent and WTI 10.48 percent on uncertainty over the shaky ceasefire in the Iran war.
- "The tone between the US and Iran has once again become significantly more confrontational. While the ceasefire holds, hopes for a swift reopening of the Strait of Hormuz have faded," Commerzbank analysts said.
- Iran has "no trust" in the United States and is interested in negotiating only if Washington is serious, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Friday, adding that Iran is prepared to go back to fighting but also prepared for diplomatic solutions.
- Trump said he is running out of patience with Iran and that he has agreed with Chinese President Xi Jinping that Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear weapon and must reopen the strait. About a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas normally passes through the strait, which is the gateway to the Gulf and main export route for countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Qatar.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-prices-climb-more-3-fears-new-us-iran-combat-4176976>

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