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Stock Market & Company

DSE breaks losing streak, but rally lacks steam

The Business Standard, May 19, 2026

- The benchmark indices of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) posted a slight gain today (19 May), snapping a two-session losing streak in a modest market recovery.
- The gains, however, lacked conviction. Trading activity remained subdued as investor participation stayed low, with many market players continuing to exercise caution amid a weak short-term trend. Restrained buying interest prevented any broad-based rally from taking shape.
- The DSEX rose 8 points to close at 5,212. The blue-chip DS30 index added 2 points to settle at 1,970, while the Shariah-based DSES index edged up 3 points to 1,059.
- Advancers outnumbered decliners — 181 issues gained against 138 that fell, with 74 stocks ending unchanged. Market turnover, however, slipped 6.89% to Tk676 crore from Tk726 crore in the previous session.
- In its daily market review, EBL Securities noted that the bourse traded largely flat as investors' selectively accumulated large-cap stocks, though participation remained muted amid persistent caution over near-term market momentum. Indices held in positive territory throughout the session on resilient bargain-hunting interest.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-breaks-losing-streak-rally-lacks-steam-1443916>

CSE finds Familytex assets sold off to Bangladesh Spinners and Knitters

The Business Standard, May 19, 2026

- The physical existence of Familytex (BD) Limited, a once-prominent name on the country's stock exchanges, has effectively come to an end following the sale of its entire factory and assets to a private entity.
- A recent investigation by a specialized team from the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) has uncovered that the company's factory premises and corporate head office are completely shut down, with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza)

CSE FINDINGS

CSE team finds office, factory shut

FAMILYTEX ASSETS SOLD

Investigation uncovers that Bepza sold the facility to Bangladesh Spinners and Knitters (Pvt) Ltd

ABOUT FAMILYTEX

- > Incorporated in 2003
- Listed on the capital market in 2013
- > No financials or corporate disclosures since 2021
- > Incurs loss since 2016

Raised **Tk34cr** through IPO

Paid-up capital **Tk354.16cr**

ALLEGATION AGAINST SPONSORS AND DIRECTORS

- > 41% of their holdings sold out without declaration
- > Regulator could not reach them as they fled away

REGULATOR'S ACTION

Board recast by appointing 5 independent directors in 2021

- > But they could not take charge
- > Later, they resigned

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN AS OF JULY 2022

- Sponsors and directors 4.02%
- Institutional investors 18.41%
- Public 77.57%

Share price **Tk2.70**

Market cap **Tk95.62cr**

Source: CSE, BSEC

already transferring ownership of the facility to Bangladesh Spinners and Knitters (Pvt) Limited, according to a disclosure filed today (19 May).

- This revelation confirms the fears of thousands of general investors, who now hold shares in a company that exists only on paper and possesses no physical assets to back its valuation, said a CSE officer.
- According to findings by the CSE team, the production and operations of Familytex have been suspended for a prolonged period, leading to a total financial collapse.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/cse-finds-familytex-assets-sold-bangladesh-spinners-and-knitters-1443886>

DSE serve query after Meghna PET shares soar 225% in four months

The Business Standard, May 19, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has issued a query notice to Meghna PET Industries over an unusual surge in its share price, which jumped 225% in the last four months despite the company's factory remaining shut for years.
- According to DSE data, Meghna Pet's share price soared from Tk17.5 in mid-January to Tk58.80 on Monday, before slipping 3.06% to Tk57 today (19 May).
- Founded in 1997, the company manufactures polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles. However, a DSE inspection team found that its factory has remained closed since 2002.
- The company has also been unable to pay dividends due to mounting losses, leading to its placement in the Z category.
- Despite its prolonged production suspension and financial weakness, the stock posted an abnormal rally, prompting the DSE to issue a query notice on 18 May.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-serve-query-after-meghna-pet-shares-soar-225-four-months-1443866>

Tax hike, competition from illicit cigarettes choke BATBC sales

The Daily Sun, May 20, 2026

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh recorded a 14 percent year-on-year decline in domestic cigarette sales volume in the first quarter of FY2025-26, as tax-driven affordability pressures, downtrading, and competition from illicit cigarettes weighed on sales, according to an earnings update by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd.
- Domestic gross revenue fell 10.7 percent year-on-year, while net revenue dropped 21 percent as the total tax burden rose to 84.1 percent from 82 percent in the same quarter last year. A modest 3.8 percent growth in unit revenue failed to offset the combined drag of lower volumes and higher taxes.
- The Bangladesh Cigarette Manufacturers' Association estimates that illicit cigarettes now account for 15 to 18 percent of the total market, posing a structural challenge for compliant manufacturers.
- Non-core revenue offered little relief. Cigarette exports remained zero for the third consecutive quarter, while leaf export revenue fell 22.5 percent year-on-year due to a 27.1 percent decline in volume, partly offset by a 6.3 percent rise in unit price.
- Revenue from third-party contract manufacturing -- now in its second quarter -- plunged 68 percent quarter-on-quarter, while no revenue was generated from semi-finished goods.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tax-hike-competition-illicit-cigarettes-choke-batbc-sales-4179881>

Economy & Industry

Budget to include support for every group

The Daily Sun, May 20, 2026

- The government will include provisions or support for every community in the budget for the fiscal year 2026-27 as part of its pledge to democratise the economy.
- “Many groups appeared to have been excluded from past budgets. There were no programmes for them-- no support. We will address every group in this budget,” said Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.
- He made the remarks in an interview with The Daily Star on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank’s annual general meeting in the first week of May in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- Khosru, who previously served as commerce minister during the BNP’s last tenure in power more than two decades ago, is now overseeing both the finance and planning ministries.
- The current government’s slogan is the democratisation of the economy. If the economy is to be democratised, every group must be included, and the benefits of the economy must reach their homes, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/budget-include-support-every-group-4179831>

Steel makers warn against further power price hike

The Daily Star, May 20, 2026

- Bangladesh’s steel manufacturers yesterday urged the government not to raise electricity tariffs further, saying higher energy costs could deepen the sector’s crisis by triggering production cuts, financial losses and possible factory closures.
- At a press briefing organised by the Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers Association (BSMA) at the Economic Reporters’ Forum in Dhaka, industry leaders said the sector was already under pressure from rising utility prices, weak demand, high borrowing costs and low utilisation of installed capacity.
- “If electricity prices are increased again, production costs will rise sharply, and many factories may be forced to reduce output. Some could even face partial or complete shutdown,” said Mohammad Jahangir Alam, president of BSMA.
- The association said industrial electricity tariffs have risen around 30 percent in recent years, while gas prices for some industries climbed nearly 300 percent, hurting the competitiveness of one of the country’s largest manufacturing sectors.
- As part of the ongoing electricity tariff review, the Bangladesh Power Development Board submitted a proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission seeking higher bulk electricity purchase rates.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/steel-makers-warn-against-further-power-price-hike-4179911>

PRAN-RFL revives 3 abandoned Rajshahi mills, creating 5,000 jobs

The Business Standard, May 20, 2026

- After working four years at a garment factory in Savar, 24-year-old Sanjida Akter returned to her home in Rajshahi in 2024, struggling to balance factory life with raising a child far from family support.
- For months, she believed her working life was over. That changed when PRAN-RFL Group restarted operations at the long-abandoned Rajshahi Textile Mill under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- Today, Sanjida works at a footwear factory just 8 kilometres from her home in Baneshwar.
- “I never thought I would get another factory job near home,” Sanjida told The Business Standard. “Now I can earn, stay with my family and take care of my child at the same time.”
- Sanjida's story is one of many now emerging from Rajshahi, reflecting a broader industrial revival in a region long neglected and considered one of Bangladesh's least industrialised zones. The reopening of abandoned factories is creating new jobs locally and reducing workers' dependence on migration to Dhaka and other industrial hubs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/pran-rfl-revives-3-abandoned-raishahi-mills-creating-5000-jobs-1443976>

International

Govt removing trade barriers with EU: commerce minister

The Business Standard, May 20, 2026

- The government has been easing business regulations by removing non-tariff barriers, mainly to facilitate greater exports and imports between Bangladesh and the European Union (EU), Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir said today.
- The minister made the remarks at a meeting with EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller at the minister's office in the secretariat in Dhaka.
- The EU is one of Bangladesh's most important trading partners, and Bangladesh is keen to further strengthen business ties with the bloc, which is the country's largest export destination.
- The government has started policy and institutional reforms to ease business regulations in order to attract more foreign direct investment and increase export and import activities.
- For instance, the government has sought public opinions through its website as it plans to finalise the import policy.
- The minister also expressed hope that the existing trade barriers between Bangladesh and the EU could be resolved through discussions between the two sides, according to a commerce ministry press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-removing-trade-barriers-eu-commerce-minister-4179471>

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