



STOCKS	
DSEX	CSCX
▲ 2.00%	▲ 1.73%
4,149.80	7,634.76

COMMODITIES	
 Gold ▲	 Oil ▲
\$1,554.50 (per ounce)	\$64.03 (per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 0.14%	▲ 0.07%	▲ 0.65%	▼ 0.52%
41,932.56	23,933.13	3,278.00	3,074.08

CURRENCIES				
	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
BUY TK	83.95	92.82	108.93	0.75
SELL TK	84.95	96.62	112.73	0.78



**Quicker  
Easier & Safer**

Fund transfer, Utility bill payment,  
Top up mobile balance,  
Credit card bill payment  
& many more





**Social Islami Bank Limited**

star

BD

BUSINESS

DHAKA FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2020, MAGH 3, 1426 BS
 [starbusiness@thedailystar.net](mailto:starbusiness@thedailystar.net)

# Grameenphone's first Bangladeshi CEO

Yasir Azman to take charge of the mobile operator from Feb 1

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Grameenphone yesterday announced Yasir Azman as its new chief executive officer, making him the first Bangladeshi national to assume the role.

Azman, who would be helming the country's leading mobile operator from February 1, served in various positions within Telenor since 2010 and is currently the deputy CEO.

He is taking over at a time when Grameenphone is embroiled in a bitter tug-of-war with the telecom regulator since March last year over unpaid dues amounting to Tk 12,579 crore after audits.

The operator vehemently disputes the amount and has taken the matter to court. The last update on that front is that the Supreme Court on November 24 asked Grameenphone to pay Tk 2,000 crore within three months.



**DISPLAY CENTRE**

**Nasir Trade Centre**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

89 Bir Uttam C.R. Dutta Road  
(Sonargaon Road)  
Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh

**Hotline: 01713 656565**



But to crank on the pressure on the operator, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has stopped all approvals for new packages and import of network equipment, much to the inconvenience of Grameenphone and subscribers alike.

Azman, who holds degrees from prestigious London Business School and INSEAD, has been responsible for running one of Telenor Group's highest performing commercial organisations while also serving as deputy CEO, said Petter-Borre Furberg, chairman of Grameenphone board, in a press release yesterday.

"I am confident he will continue to deliver great results in his new challenge as CEO," he added.

Azman becomes the second Bangladeshi national to lead one of the major mobile operators, all of which are foreign-owned. Mahtab Uddin Ahmed became the first Bangladeshi to helm a mobile operator, when Malaysian Axiata appointed him as the CEO of its Bangladesh operations, Robi, in 2016.

READ MORE ON B3

# Stocks get a shot in arm

- Square Pharma directors' share buyback boosts confidence
- PMO drafts action plan for the market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The premier bourse sprang to life yesterday with Square Pharmaceuticals' sponsor-directors announcement to buy back shares, which can be ideal for all to revive confidence of general shareholders.

Yesterday, Tapan Chowdhury and Samuel S Chowdhury, both sponsor-directors of the drug maker, announced that they will buy total 6 lakh shares of their own company within next 30 working days at market price.

The sponsors must have deemed their company's share is undervalued, which is why they decided to buy shares off general investors, said a merchant banker preferring anonymity.

"But this move ignited the confidence of investors," he said, while urging the sponsors of other solid

If sponsors of other fundamentally solid companies like Square Pharma come forward to buy back shares it would have a positive impact on the market sentiment.

READ MORE ON B3

DSEX rose to **4,149.82** points (increased **81.62** points, or **2%**)

Turnover Tk **267.49** crore (up Tk **24.67** crore, or **10.15%**)

## TOP POSITIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO DSEX

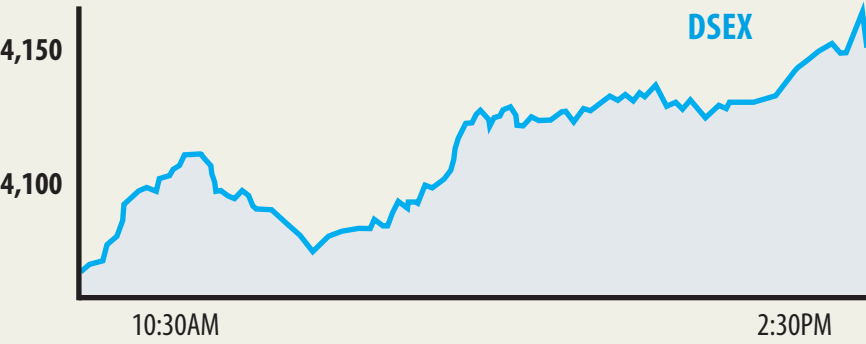
Company	In points
Grameenphone	23.15
Square Pharmaceuticals	16.61
Renata	3.98
BATBC	3.94
Brac Bank	2.54

## TOP FIVE GAINERS

Company	Gain (in %)
Anilmayarn	9.97
Eastern Insurance	9.42
Meghna Pet	9.37
Green Delta Mutual Fund	9.37
Beach Hatchery	8.72

## TOP FIVE LOSERS

Company	Loss (in %)
SS Steel	9.60
ADN Telecom	9.45
Aziz Pipes	8.85
Premier Cement	8.77
United Airways	6.67



With the view of getting the stock market hale and hearty, a meeting took place at Prime Minister's Office yesterday. The action plan includes:

Raise participation of banks and NBFIs

Give easy loans to merchant banks

Ramp up ICB's ability to invest

Revive general investors' confidence

Woo in foreign investors

Boost investment of institutional investors

Bring in multinational and state-run companies



PALASH KHAN

People are seen selling one of the most popular winter vegetables, the cauliflower. This photo was taken on Wednesday at a makeshift bazaar in Savar's Hemayetpur which opens at the crack of dawn and closes by 9am.

# Higher allocation for Delta Plan

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday increased the allocation for the Delta Plan 2100 to 0.86 percent of the gross domestic product this fiscal year, which was 0.58 percent in the previous year.

It has also selected some 80 projects to be implemented on a priority basis, for which about \$37 billion or 2.5 percent of the GDP will be spent by 2030.

Bangladesh's GDP stood at Tk 2,536,177 crore in 2018-19.

The allocation was raised following an assessment of the plan taken in September 2018 with the view to ensuring food and water security and fight disasters.

Under the plan, coastal, varendra (barind), drought- and flood-prone areas along with haor, Chittagong Hill Tracts, riverine and urban areas will get priority.

The planning ministry organised a discussion on the Delta Plan yesterday at the NEC auditorium in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, where an integrated assessment of the plan was presented.

The \$4.02 billion Integrated

## FIVE MAJOR PROJECTS OF DELTA PLAN

- ▶ Rationalisation of polders in Baleswar-Tentulia basin **\$2.03B**
- ▶ Construction of Padma barrage and ancillary works **\$5.28B**
- ▶ River bank improvement programme **\$1.83B**
- ▶ Integrated Jamuna-Padma rivers' stabilisation and land reclamation project **\$4.02B**
- ▶ Greater Dhaka integrated water and sewerage improvement project **\$4.86B**

○ Government investment outlook of Delta Plan

○ Before Delta Plan: 0.58 percent of GDP

○ FY 2019-20 (First year of the plan): 0.86 percent of GDP

○ Targeted plan by 2030: 2.5 percent of GDP

Jamuna-Padma Rivers Stabilisation and Land Reclamation project is one of the major ones taken under the plan, said Shamsul Alam, a member of the General Economics Division, adding that the World Bank has already showed interest in providing \$2 billion for the project.

Another \$5.28 billion project titled 'Construction of Padma Barrage and

Ancillary Works' has been added to the list.

The project will be implemented after Bangladesh sits and discusses with the country where the river originates from, Alam said, adding that the GDP will grow at 1.5 percent every year if the plan is implemented.

READ MORE ON B3

## Border haats on focus at Indo-Bangla CEO Forum

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

Commerce secretaries of Bangladesh and India yesterday agreed to advance discussions on border haats and the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), a mega trade deal between the two countries, during the Bangladesh-India CEO Forum in New Delhi yesterday.

At present, four border haats, which are designated market places where day to day commodities are traded, can be found along the Bangladesh-India border on a weekly basis.

The CEPA is a free trade accord under which participating countries significantly reduce or eliminate import duties on goods and services traded between them.

READ MORE ON B3

# 5G turns heads at Dhaka tech fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Thousands of enthusiastic visitors yesterday experienced different digital services using fifth generation (5G) mobile technology in the country's first public demonstration of the superfast wireless internet.

The first day of Digital Bangladesh Mela 2020 saw the gathering of mostly students at Bangabandhu International Conference Center centring the 5G demonstrations organised by global technology giant Huawei.

People used hand gestures to make a robot play football, played a virtual reality skiing game and downloaded content at speeds of up to 1.6 Gbps using 5G technology.

Earlier in the morning Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy inaugurated the three-day exposition.

Nirab Mahmood, a second-year computer science and engineering student at Shaikh Burhanuddin Post Graduate College, was in wonder with the experience.

"The speed is really unimaginable. This was so fast and I did not feel any glitches in the VR game," he added.

Zahidul Islam, a student of Daffodil International University, came from Mohammadpur with his 11-year-old nephew. "My nephew is very fond of robots. I brought him here as it is the first time we are seeing such kind of experience with robots in the country," he said.

The demonstration was to make people aware about the latest technology and its possible use in productive and manufacturing sectors, said



MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Visitors through the Teletalk stall at a tech fair at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday. The state-run mobile operator was offering free SIM cards in a desperate bid to jack up subscriber numbers. Inset, Meanwhile, the BDCOM Online stall offered low-cost internet packages.



SM Nazmul Hasan, marketing director of Huawei Technologies Bangladesh.

"We are showcasing a humanoid robot playing a soccer game, but we don't need 5G for that. But imagine in a factory warehouse if hundreds of robots are working, we will need 5G for smooth operations. The VR technology is not new also, but with 5G experience we can ensure cloud-based real-time storage," he said.

The government is scheduled to launch 5G internet by early 2021. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission is planning to hold the 5G spectrum auction at the end of 2020.

Visitors at the fair also queued up in front of the stall of state-run mobile phone operator Teletalk to avail free SIMs.

At the fair, Bangladeshi broadband internet service provider (ISP) BDCOM Online offered broadband internet connectivity with a community-based concept at Tk 300 per month.

A total of 82 firms, including ISPs, are showcasing broadband internet, triple play technology (land phone, internet and cable TV connection in a single cable), mobile apps, parental control and other technologies.

ICT EXPORTS TO SOON EXCEED

RMG EARNINGS: JOY

Joy said the ICT export earnings would "within a short time" exceed that of readymade garments (RMG), currently the highest foreign currency earner.

"Today on record officially, Bangladesh's IT export exceeded \$1 billion...I believe within a very short time we will cross our garments export through technology export," new agency BSS quoted him as saying.

READ MORE ON B3