

**সুপার ডিপিএস**  
বিশেষ সঞ্চয় কিম  
প্রাক্কলিত মুনাফা:

|       |       |        |
|-------|-------|--------|
| ৩ বছর | ৫ বছর | ১০ বছর |
| ৯.২৫% | ৯.৫০% | ১০%    |

ইসলামী শরীআত এর মুরাফা নিতির বিহীন পরিচালিত।  
**SIBL**  
সুপ্রিম ব্যাংকিং  
Social Islami Bank Limited

# star BUSINESS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2019, BHADRA 20, 1426 BS ● starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## DSE dragged down by three large-cap stocks

**AHSAN HABIB**  
Three heavyweight stocks Grameenphone, Brac Bank and British American Tobacco Bangladesh led the slump in the last one month that saw the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange shed 162 points and lose Tk 11,873 crore.  
The three large companies snatched 55.4 points, meaning they accounted for more than one-third the points lost.  
Of them, Grameenphone – which is the largest company by market capitalisation – alone caused a loss of 26.67 points on the back of its tussles with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.  
Other than being declared a significant market power which would slow down its earnings growth, Grameenphone has been ordered to pay Tk 12,579.95 crore in unpaid dues or face its licence being revoked.  
When news came out, the telecom company's stocks fell from Tk 337.1 to Tk 294.7 in just one month.  
Grameenphone counts a sizeable number of foreign investors as its shareholders and they mostly offloaded their holdings in the country's leading mobile operator.  
"Foreign investors are nervous due to the frequent intervention of the regulator on the company's activities, so they sold off," said Ershad Hossain, chief executive officer of City Bank Capital.  
The reason for the selloff of Brac Bank and BATBC stocks

is different from Grameenphone's: the two companies logged in lower earnings in the last two quarters.  
Earnings per share (EPS) of BATBC declined to Tk 21.17 in the first half of 2019 from Tk 32.36 a year earlier.  
Md Azizur Rahman, company secretary of BATBC, said the company's earnings fell due to a slump in sales volume of low-segment tobacco products along with a rise in tax.  
Meanwhile, the financial sector is not performing well, so there is a confidence crisis among investors -- and Brac Bank, being the largest bank by market capitalisation, suffered.  
Brac Bank's EPS came down to Tk 2.05 in the first half of the year from Tk 2.17 a year earlier.  
When the large companies' stocks fall the overall market feels the tremors as the general investors get panicked, said a



top official of a leading stock broker.  
Institutional and foreign investors are selling off their stocks as they fear the three companies' earnings may shrink further.  
The DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, lost 26.48 points, or 0.52 percent, to close at 5,007.05 yesterday. The index has lost 172 points in the last five trading days.  
Turnover, another important indicator of the market, also dropped 10.87 percent to Tk 394.82 crore.  
Of the traded issues, 109 advanced and 169 declined with 61 securities closing unchanged on the premier bourse.

## RELAXED POLICY Deadline extended for rescheduling loans

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
The central bank yesterday extended the deadline for defaulters for sending in rescheduling proposals under its relaxed policy to October 20.  
Earlier in August, Bangladesh Bank said defaulters would get the scope to apply until September 7 in line with the High Court order. But it extended the deadline again as per another court order on August 29.  
Under the policy, defaulters can make a 2 percent down payment to reschedule their loans for 10 years, including one year's grace period, at 9 percent interest rate.  
The borrowers, who will get the rescheduling facility under the policy, will not be allowed to get fresh loans from banks, according to a central bank notice sent out to all lenders yesterday.  
The relaxed policy was made available in May to allow defaulters to clear their loans.  
**READ MORE ON B3**

## BTRC starts work on 5G guideline

### Committee members highlight spectrum price and security issue

**MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM**  
Bangladesh is homing in on a 2022 roll-out of the fifth generation (5G) cellular network technology, with the telecom regulator now working on a guideline for the next generation of mobile internet connectivity that comes with super-fast speeds.  
With 5G, mobile users can expect average download speeds of at least 1 Gigabits per second, in contrast to 7.5 Megabits per second under 4G.  
A national committee—led by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's spectrum management commissioner Md Aminul Hassan—yesterday convened to discuss issues that the guideline needs to address.  
At the meeting eight subcommittees were also formed to choose the suitable spectrum for the service, fix the price of the spectrum along with ensuring the security issues of the technology.  
The committee, which has representation of all stakeholders including intelligence agencies, academics and policymakers, must submit their draft guideline to the commission by January 31, 2020.  
5G networks are already starting to appear and are expected to launch across the world by 2020. The Bangladesh government has initially targeted to launch 5G service by the end of 2022 or early 2023.  
But leading mobile phone operators said

the market ecosystem is not ready yet to reap the full benefits of 4G, let alone the next generation 5G.  
In September 2013 four mobile phone operators were awarded 3G licences and in February last year they were given 4G licences.  
Mobile operators said so far they have not found any business from 3G and 4G and have wasted huge amounts of money to rollout the technologies.  
Their total investment on 3G was upwards of Tk 36,000 crore but they have registered only Tk 7,000 crore in revenue against it.  
For rolling out 4G services, operators have invested about Tk 11,000 crore and have also paid Tk 5,000 crore to the regulator. But the impact on revenue has been negligible.  
**READ MORE ON B3**

Introducing **Rustic Punch Series**  
Matt Wall Tiles  
30x60cm  
01713656565  
dbi CERAMICS

## RMG Sustainability Council to be formed by Nov 25

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
RMG Sustainability Council (RSC), a tripartite compliance and safety monitoring body of the apparel sector, will be formally formed by November 25 as agreed upon by brands, union leaders and factory owners yesterday.  
Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), along with the RSC steering committee's other

members announced this after two days of meetings at the Four Points by Sheraton in Dhaka.  
The RSC will mainly conduct inspection, monitoring and certification for factories, brands and retailers globally.  
So the RSC will also take over all activities and staff of Accord, the European platform of more than 200 retailers and brands formed after the Rana Plaza building collapse in April 2013.  
**READ MORE ON B3**



## Confidence Cement buys 51pc stakes in Zodiac Power

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Confidence Cement has purchased 51 percent stakes in Zodiac Power Chittagong Ltd at a cost of Tk 5.1 crore and made it a subsidiary with effect from August 6.  
Confidence bought 51 lakh ordinary shares of Zodiac that has a 54.363 MW heavy fuel oil-based power plant in Chattogram.  
Zodiac started commercial operation on August 30 this year to sell power directly to Bangladesh Power Development Board.  
The share of Confidence Cement hit Tk 145.80 yesterday, a rise of 0.21 percent from the previous day.  
**READ MORE ON B3**

## Massive policy reforms a must to attract foreign investors

### Says Bida's outgoing executive chairman

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Bangladesh needs massive policy reforms and more business-friendly rules and regulations to attract more foreign investors, said Kazi M Aminul Islam, the outgoing executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida).  
"Reforms and change in rules and policies should continue as per requirement," Islam said in his last media briefing as Bida's executive chairman at his office in the capital's Agargaon.  
He said Bida has been working for the last three years to create a business-friendly environment.  
The country's ranking will move into double-digit from last year's 176th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index, on the back of the Bida's reform plan.  
The agency was formed in September 2016 through the merger

### BIDA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN 3 YEARS

- It implemented 22 reform proposals for ease of doing business
- Time for starting business came down to 11 days from 19.5 days before
- Time for giving approval for factory construction now 76 days against 281 days before
- Businesses can now get power connections in 76 days, down from 148 days earlier
- Property registration time came down to 56 days from 106 days
- It is providing 22 services online

of two state-owned entities — the Privatisation Commission and the Board of Investment — in a bid to improve the business climate.  
Accordingly, the Bida has prepared 88 reform proposals related to the ease of doing business.  
"We have been able to implement 22 proposals in the last three years. If all the proposals are implemented, Bangladesh's ranking will advance to top 50 countries."  
About the reforms, the former bureaucrat said the time needed to start a business came down to 11 days from 19.5 days, the approval for building construction for factory to 76 days from 281 days, power connection to 76 days from 148 days, tax payment to one week from 18 weeks and property registration to 56 days from 106 days.  
The Bida has been able to inform the global community about the business opportunity in Bangladesh, Islam said.  
**READ MORE ON B3**

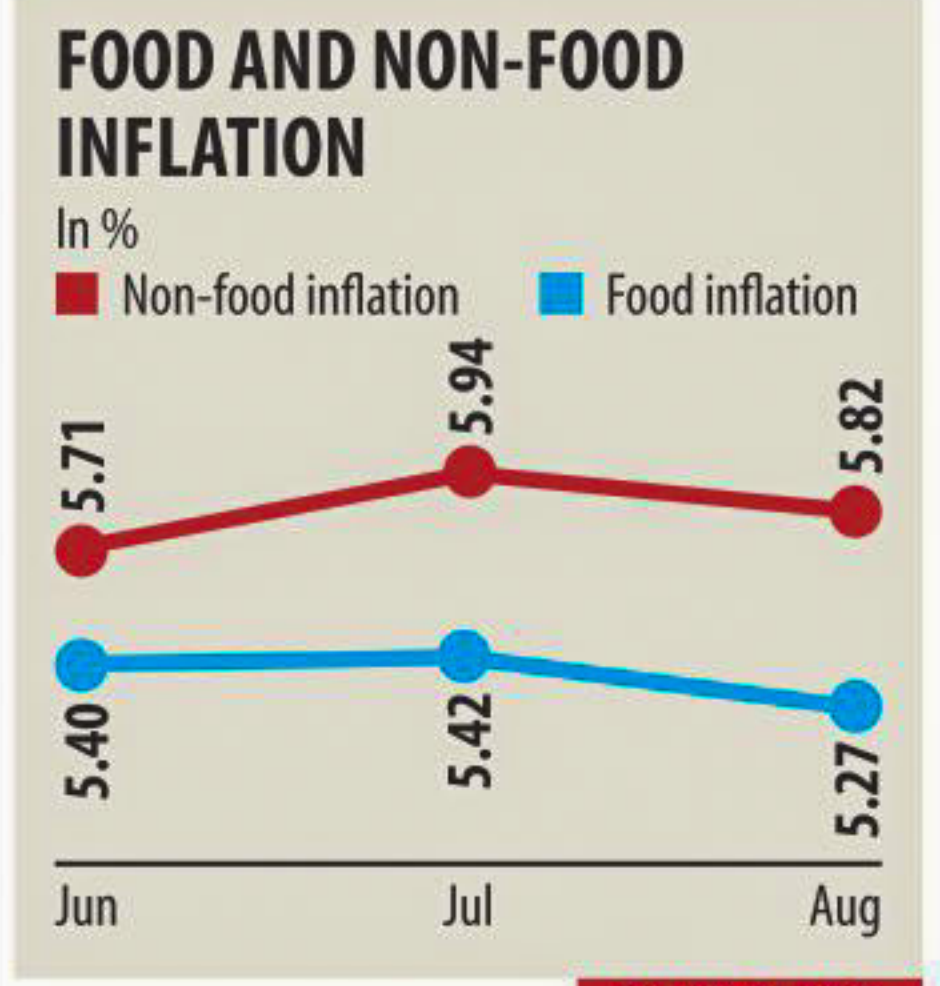
## More FDI needed to achieve SDGs

**ICCB says FDI can also speed up wealth, tech transfer**  
**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Least developed countries need a large flow of foreign direct investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, said the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICCB) yesterday.  
"FDI has an important role to play in helping achieve the UN 2030 Agenda," it said.  
FDI can also accelerate wealth and technological transfer between the developing and the developed countries.  
However, mobilising sufficient financing is the major challenge to achieving the SDGs. Although interests in inclusive and sustainable financing are growing from both public and private sectors, the most needed investment for SDGs-related projects remains underfunded, the chamber said.  
"In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the international community must embark on a path of collective efforts, including providing support to many developing countries to increase investment in numerous fields."  
Both upgrading and diversifying productive capacities and advancing communication, energy and transportation infrastructure remain priorities. Several countries, especially the LDCs are heavily reliant on international assistance to advance these efforts, it said.  
It is estimated that the total annual financing needed to reach the SDGs would range between \$4.6 trillion and \$7.9 trillion at the global level. The total annual investment gap in key sustainable development sectors is estimated to be at \$2.5 trillion by the UNCTAD and many countries must double their current infrastructure investment levels.  
**READ MORE ON B3**

## Inflation edges down in August

### Minister says people spent less after Eid-ul-Azha, supply chain was normal

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**  
Inflation declined 13 basis points to 5.49 percent in August, helped by the downward movement of both food and non-food prices.  
Last month's rate also bucked the rising trend as inflation had risen 10 basis points to 5.62 percent in the first month of the current fiscal year.  
Planning Minister MA Mannan released



the monthly consumer price index report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics at National Economic Council in Dhaka yesterday.  
He said it was happy news that inflation did not go up in August.  
People did not spend more money after Eid-ul-Azha and the supply chain was normal as there was usual rain in the month.  
Food inflation edged down 15 basis points from 5.62 percent in July to 5.49 percent last month while non-food inflation came down to 5.82 percent, down 12 basis points from 5.94 percent a month ago.  
In rural areas inflation dropped to 5.34 percent from 5.48 percent in July. Food and non-food inflation declined to 5.38 percent and 5.25 percent from 5.60 percent and 5.27 percent respectively in July.  
Inflation also fell in urban areas, to 5.75 percent from 5.88 percent. Food and non-food inflation were down to 5.02 percent and 6.60 percent in August from 5.03 percent and 6.84 percent respectively a month ago.  
The government has targeted a 5.5 percent inflation rate in the current fiscal year. It was able to contain it at 5.48 percent last fiscal year, comfortably below the target of 5.6 percent.

**CEMS Global presents**

**20th TEXTTECH BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL EXPO 2019**

Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition for the last 20 years featuring Int'l Textile Apparel Technology & Machinery

3 Comprehensive Int'l Exhibitions Serving the Entire Textile & Garment Industry of Bangladesh for the last 20 Years

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2019 10:30AM - 7:30PM

ICCB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CITY BASHUNDHARA, KURIL, DHAKA

5 SEP 19 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

**SYMPOSIUM on Green Chemistry and Sustainable Chemical Management for Bangladesh Textile Growth**

Concurrent Exhibitions:

- 20th DYE+CHEM BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL EXPO 2019
- Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition featuring Int'l Yarn, Fabric, Trims & Accessories Manufacturers & Suppliers
- Bangladesh's Oldest B2B Exhibition featuring Int'l Dyestuff, Fine & Specialty Chemicals Manufacturers & Suppliers

Host Country Partner: CEMS BANGLADESH  
Technical Partner: IAT, ETC  
Digital Sourcing Partner: SOURCING 365  
Broadcast Partner: B  
Media Partners: The Daily Star, Radio Today, The Daily Prothom, The Daily Sun, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Jang, The Daily Kaler Desh, The Daily Jugad, The Daily Jugad, The Daily Jugad  
Radio Partner: Radio Today, Radio Prothom, Radio Sun, Radio Ittefaq, Radio Jang, Radio Kaler Desh, Radio Jugad, Radio Jugad, Radio Jugad  
Magazine Partners: The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom, The Daily Sun, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Jang, The Daily Kaler Desh, The Daily Jugad, The Daily Jugad, The Daily Jugad  
Media Monitoring Partner: Media Monitoring Partner