

Daily News Brief

Sunday, April 25, 2021



Index Update

Symbol	Last Day	Point Change	% Change
DSEX	5435.03	11.81	0.2%
DSES	1237.39	3.90	0.3%
DS30	2087.55	4.05	0.2%

Market Performance

Particulars	Last Day	Prev. Day	% Change
Turnover (BDT mn)	8832.93	7766.72	13.7%
Trade Volume (mn)	229295064	198891189	15.3%
Total No of Trade	150287	131887	14.0%

Market Value

Particulars	Last Day	Prev. Day	% Change
Market Cap. (BDT mn)	4683168.17	4685197.00	0.0%
Market P/E	14.09	14.07	0.1%

Global Equity Market Update

Particulars	Close Value	Price Change	% Change
Dow Jones Industrial Avg.	34,043.49	227.59	0.7%
S&P 500 Index	4,180.17	45.19	1.1%
NASDAQ Composite	14,016.81	198.40	1.4%

Global Commodity Market Update

Particulars	Close Price	Price Change	% Change
Brent Crude (ICE) (USD/bbl.)	66.11	0.71	1.1%
Natural Gas (NYMEX) (USD/ MMBtu)	2.73	-0.02	-0.7%
Gold Spot (USD/t oz.)	1777.20	-6.74	-0.4%
Copper (USD/lb.)	434.10	6.15	1.4%

National Economy

Govt to expand safety net

The government has already provided seasonal assistance to about 10 lakh people living below the poverty line and will expand such social protection programmes to curb the adverse effects of any future economic shock, according to Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

News link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-expand-safety-net-2083357>

JETRO for lifting TT remittance limitation for import trade

The Japan External Trade Organization has laid emphasis on lifting the limitation on Telegraphic Transfer (TT) remittance for import trade to attract more Japanese investment in Bangladesh. The organisation observed that the limitation was hindering import for increasing trade and investment in the country.

News link: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/136261/jetro-for-lifting-tt-remittance-limitation-for-import-trade>

Factories cut production to keep working capital free

From construction materials to furniture, from electronics to automobiles and attires, everything is facing a drop in production and shipment. Unlike last year's shutdown, the government has allowed all factories to run during the ongoing lockdown, regardless of their status as exporters or manufacturers for the local market.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/factories-cut-production-keep-working-capital-free-235915>

Bank & NBFi

Branchless banking gaining ground

A good number of banks are going towards branchless banking in recent times by way of rolling out different digital products as a part of their efforts to reach out to more people both in rural and urban areas.

News link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/branchless-banking-gaining-ground-2083361>

Farm loan interest cut to 8pc

Bangladesh Bank yesterday cut the interest rate on farm loans as part of its efforts to boost the agriculture sector amidst the ongoing economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Banks will have to give out farm loans at an 8 per cent interest rate instead of the previous 9 per cent, according to a central bank notice.

News link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/farm-loan-interest-cut-8pc-2082393>

bKash incurs losses for 2nd year in 2020

Strategic investments to tighten market grip act as reason amid growing competition. The leading mobile financial service provider in the country, bKash, incurred losses for the second consecutive year in 2020 as the operator increased its strategic investments following

the launch of Nagad which intensified competition on the market.

News link: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/136180/bkash-incurs-losses-for-2nd-year-in-2020>

Sonali Bank loses capital, profit while serving govt

The free of cost services that Sonali provides to the government has a financial value amounting to around Tk2,614 crore a year. Sonali Bank's capital shortfall is gradually widening and its profit margin is declining too because of its opportunity cost for providing free or concessional services to the government.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/sonali-bank-loses-capital-profit-while-serving-govt-236296>

Mercantile Bank's profit rises 16% in Q1

The private sector lender has approved a 15% dividend – 10% cash and 5% bonus – for its shareholders. Mercantile Bank, which got listed on the stock exchanges in 2004, has reported a 16% increase in profit in the first quarter of this year. The private sector lender has approved a 15% dividend – 10% cash and 5% bonus – for its shareholders.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/mercantile-banks-profit-rises-16-q1-236704>

Pharmaceuticals

Production boom for local drugmakers

The rise in imports and exports also reflects how pandemic brings opportunity for local drug makers. When all major sectors have experienced a fall in production amid Covid-led disruption in the local supply chain, the pharmaceutical industry has remained unhurt as drugmakers registered a manufacturing boost on the back of high demand for medicines in the pandemic time.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/companies/pharma/production-boom-local-drugmakers-236305>

FMCG

Pasteurised milk production, sale fall despite Ramadan

People related to milk production said the country produces an average of 60 lakh litres of milk per day. The production and sale of pasteurised milk have declined in the country despite Ramadan as demand has fallen due to the strict lockdown imposed by the government to restrict the spread of Covid-19 infections.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pasteurised-milk-production-sale-fall-despite-ramadan-236020>

Construction

LafargeHolcim profit doubles in Q1 on higher sales

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh said yesterday its profit almost doubled in the first quarter of 2021, riding on a staggering 23 per cent growth in sales amid the pandemic. Net sales of the local subsidiary of the global cement giant stood at Tk 631.8 crore in the January to March quarter, up from Tk 512.8 crore year-on-year, as its new products were well-received by the customers.

News link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lafargeholcim-profit-doubles-q1-higher-sales-2082365>

Engineering

Walton launches smart fridge model on occasion of Eid

On the occasion of Eid, electronics brand Walton has launched a new model of Internet of Things-based non-frost smart fridge that can be controlled through mobile phone from anywhere in the world, said a press release. Walton is the lone manufacturer of IoT-based smart fridges in Bangladesh.

News link: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/136263/walton-launches-smart-fridge-model-on-occasion-of-eid>

Capital Market

BSEC worried about listed power cos as tenure of PPAs ends soon

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has expressed its concern about the future of a number of listed power companies as the tenure of power purchase agreements signed between the companies and the Bangladesh Power Development Board is nearing to an end.

News link: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/136258/bsec-worried-about-listed-power-cos-as-tenure-of-ppas-ends-soon>

IPO funded projects hit a snag in pandemic

Companies are suffering commercially and are not able to complete their projects within the stipulated time. A number of companies have entered the capital market during the Covid-19 pandemic but the projects articulated under the initial public offerings (IPOs) could not make enough progress.

News link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/ipo-funded-projects-hit-snag-pandemic-236698>

BSEC relaxes rules for submission of financials until May 25

The stock market regulator has temporarily relaxed the listing regulations or other securities laws for all the listed companies relating to the requirements of monthly/quarterly submissions until May 25. It issued an order on the matter on Thursday following appeals from some listed companies and the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC).

News link: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bsec-relaxes-rules-for-submission-of-financials-until-may-25-1619153024>

International Economy

Oil edges higher as recovery support countered by Asia virus surge

Oil settled higher on Friday, supported by bullish economic data from US and Europe, though a rise in coronavirus cases in India was still pressuring prices. Brent crude settled up 77 cents, 1.1 per cent, to US\$66.11 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) US crude gained 71 cents, or 1.2 per cent, to US\$62.14 a barrel.

News link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-business/news/oil-edges-higher-recovery-support-counterred-asia-virus-surge-2083293>

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