



**UTTARA FINANCE**  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED



BUSINESS NEWS ANALYSIS REPORT

## Capital Market News

### Stock rally carries on

The stock market continued to rise for a sixth day yesterday, sans the two-day weekend, while turnover almost doubled thanks to an increase in the participation of investors despite a deterioration of the coronavirus pandemic. The DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), surged by 71 points, or 1.34 per cent, to stand at 5,421.78 yesterday.

Turnover, another important indicator of the market, rose 87 per cent to Tk 1,299 crore. Another reason is that the banks, ports and industries are open during the

ongoing lockdown, so the impact on businesses will not be at that much of a big extent this year.

Last year, they sold shares at a very low price when the market was falling before the two month-long general leave as they saw a bearish trend for a few days, Pasha clarified.

Block market trading amounted to Tk 402 crore yesterday, shows DSE data. If institutional investors join at this stage, the market will reach a higher level. Eastern Insurance Company topped the gainers' list, rising 9.93 per cent, followed by Miracle Industries, Anwar Galvanizing, Usmania Glass Sheet Factory and Golden Son.

# Daily Business News

April 21, 2021

Stocks of Beximco were traded the highest, worth Tk 147 crore, followed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, LankaBangla Finance, Robi Axiata and BD Finance. Provati Insurance Company shed the most, dropping 6.3 per cent, followed by Continental Insurance, Central Insurance, Crystal Insurance Company and Sonar Bangla Insurance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stock-rally-carries-2081005>

## Industry News

**Banks open for limited hours till April 28**

Bangladesh Bank has asked lenders to continue operating on a limited scale until the second week of the ongoing lockdown ends on April 28, all aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19. Clients will be allowed to conduct banking activities from 10:00am to 1:00pm in this period. However, branches will remain open until 2:30pm to complete their regular procedures, according to a central bank circular issued yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-open-limited-hours-till-april-28-2081021>

### **NBFI borrowers can defer repayments till June**

Borrowers of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) will get a fresh repayment deferral support of three months till June 30 this year. Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday said such borrowers who were facing trouble in paying instalments during the Covid-19 pandemic would be eligible.

The NBFIs' clients also enjoyed a loan moratorium facility throughout last year. The central bank extended the loan moratorium facility due to the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, said a BB official who was engaged on the issue. A good number of clients have been in dire straits due to the recent spread of the virus, which has forced the government to impose strict restrictions on movement to keep the pandemic at bay.

The NBFIs will not be allowed to impose any penal interest, extra fee, commission or charge. The

central bank asked the NBFIs to bring the directive into immediate effect, according to a BB notice. Around a month back, the BB enabled a fresh repayment deferral support for the borrowers of banks for three months, albeit subject to the bank-customer relations.

In a circular on March 24, it said banks would have to take this support into consideration for clients who were unable to pay their instalments on time. Borrowers were to start paying the instalments from the second quarter. In March last year, the central bank declared a loan moratorium facility for the banking sector, which stayed in effect throughout last year. The same policy was later issued for the NBFIs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbfi-borrowers-can-defer-repayments-till-june-2081009>

### **CAAB permits domestic flights on limited scale**

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has decided to resume flight operations on the domestic routes on a limited scale from 21 to 28 April. A limited number of scheduled domestic passenger flights to and from selected destinations and the corporate flights of the helicopter and general aviation are allowed to be operated under special consideration.

It also instructed to follow standard disinfection, sanitisation and social distancing rules for passenger, crew, equipment and aircraft (in-

flight or on ground). The CAAB made it clear that all other flights will remain suspended, but the operation of the medevac and humanitarian/ relief will continue as usual.

Meantime, private carrier US-Bangla Airlines and the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines announced to operate flights on the domestic routes from Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/caab-permits-domestic-flights-limited-scale-234616>

## **Economy News**

### **Global LNG suppliers seek long-term deals with Bangladesh**

Global LNG (liquefied natural gas) suppliers are lobbying Bangladesh to secure long-term deals with an eye to ensuring a stake in the booming energy sector. The interested suppliers include new firms as well as those who have already inked initial deals and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the state-run Petrobangla over the past several years.

They recently wrote to energy and mineral resources division, showing their keen interest to supply LNG under long term, a senior energy ministry official told the FE on Tuesday. Indonesia's Pertamina, Malaysia's Petronas, Brunei's Brunei LNG and Switzerland's AOT Energy AG are among the suppliers that have

already inked MoUs or letters of intent with Petrobangla, he said. They are awaiting final sales and purchase agreements (SPAs).

The firms are in queue to strike long-term supply deals seeing the growing demand for LNG here and consistent purchase from both long-term suppliers and spot market. Currently, Bangladesh is importing LNG under long-term deals from two global suppliers- Qatar's Qatargas and Oman's Oman Trading International (OTI).

Petrobangla started importing LNG on a regular basis from September 09, 2018. On September 25 last year, it inked the first-ever SPA with Qatar's RasGas to buy an estimated 2.5-million tonne per year (Mtpa) of lean LNG over 15 years.

During the initial five years, RasGas will supply annually around 1.8-million tonnes, which will increase up to 2.5 Mtpa in the next 10 years, said a senior Petrobangla official. The purchase price has been set at around 12.65 per cent of the three-month average price of Brent crude oil plus \$0.50 constant per mmBtu. If Petrobangla has more demand in the first five years, it can raise the import volume to 2.5 Mtpa annually.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/global-lng-suppliers-seek-long-term-deals-with-bangladesh-1618974943>

### **Over 24.5 million new poor still in tatters**

The daily income of the extreme and moderate poor has returned to

even above the pre-pandemic level, but 24.5 million new poor continue to reel under adverse impacts of Covid-19 despite some recovery in their employment and income over the last one year, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The economy faced a fragile and segmented recovery, while daily earnings in rural areas increased by 2% over February last year, the pre-Covid time. But the per capita daily income in urban areas is below 14% of what it was in normal times, revealed the study jointly conducted by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and the Brac Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).

The number of borrower households doubled and the cumulative amount of loan jumped by 76% in rural areas and 86% in urban areas. Extreme poor households faced a loan burden amounting to Tk42,499 on average in March this year, which was Tk22,429 in February last year. Up to March, the average loan of extreme poor households increased by 89%, while it increased by 98% for moderate poor and 86% for vulnerable non-poor households.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/debt-burden-doubles-urban-and-new-poor-struggle-recover-study-234565>

## **Company News**

### **HeidelbergCement stocks soar 38% in six days**

The share price of HeidelbergCement Bangladesh – which incurred massive losses in the first nine months of 2020 – soared by 38% to Tk233.6, from Tk168.6 each, in the last six days. In the January-September period, the German cement maker's sales dropped by 10% amid the Covid-19 pandemic, while its net profit stood negative, from profit in the same time of the previous year. The share price unusually rose from 11-20 April and for this recent price hike, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) sent a query to the company.

The company said its board of directors will meet on 28 April to consider, among other matters, audited financial statements for 2020. Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Limited is a sister concern of HeidelbergCement Group from Germany. The company meets 13% of the country's cement demand from its two plants located in Dhaka and Chattogram.

HeidelbergCement had earlier acquired two companies named Emirates Cement and Emirates Power at a cost of Tk182.58 crore, from UltraTech Cement Middle East Investments Ltd. On 7 February, the company received a High Court direction for amalgamation, and to get approval of the scheme for the merger, it will hold an extraordinary general meeting on 2 May.

According to the financial statements, in the first nine months of last year, its sales stood at Tk810.63 crore, which was Tk899.93 crore in the same period

the previous year. In this time, the company has incurred a loss of Tk17.07 crore while loss per share stood at Tk3.02.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/heidelbergcement-stocks-soar-38-six-days-234604>

### **Grameenphone net profit drops by 16.68pc to Tk 890.63cr in Q1**

The net profit of leading mobile phone operator Grameenphone dropped by 16.68 per cent or Tk 178.34 crore year-on-year in the first quarter of the year 2021 amid the Covid-19 outbreak in the country. In January-March quarter of 2021, the net profit after tax of GP dropped to Tk 890.63 crore

from Tk 1,068.97 crore in the same period of the previous year.

Accordingly, earnings per share of the mobile phone operator dropped to Tk 6.6 in the first quarter of 2021 from Tk 7.92 in the same quarter of the year 2020. Besides, GP's revenue dropped by 3.7 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2021 to Tk 3,481.26 crore though the operator added 17 lakh connections in the quarter, according to a GP press release issued on Tuesday.

Grameenphone chief executive officer Yasir Azman said that several significant milestones were achieved in the first three months of 2021. 'With the acquisition of

10.4 MHz spectrum, GP holds 47.4 MHz of spectrum,' Yasir said, adding, 'During the first quarter, we acquired 17 lakh subscribers crossing the 8 crore milestone, while with a YoY growth of 50.7 per cent, we reached 2.15 crore 4G users.'

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/135889/grameenphone-net-profit-drops-by-1668pc-to-tk-89063cr-in-q1>

## **Price Sensitive News**

Trading Code: KAY&QUE  
 News Title: KAY&QUE: Resumption after record date  
 News: Trading of the shares of the Company will resume on 22.04.2021 after record date.  
 Post Date: 2021-04-21

Trading Code: UNIQUEHRL  
 News Title: UNIQUEHRL: Board Meeting schedule under LR 16(1)  
 News: As per Regulation 16(1) of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations, 2015, the Company has informed that a meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM to consider, among others, un-audited financial statements of the Company for the Third Quarter (Q3) period ended on March 31, 2021.  
 Post Date: 2021-04-21

Trading Code: AMANFEED  
 News Title: AMANFEED: Board Meeting schedule under LR 16(1)  
 News: As per Regulation 16(1) of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations, 2015, the Company has informed that a meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM to consider, among others, un-audited financial statements of the Company for the Third Quarter (Q3) period ended on March 31, 2021.  
 Post Date: 2021-04-21

Trading Code: JAMUNABANK  
 News Title: JAMUNABANK: Board Meeting schedule under LR 16(1)  
 News: As per Regulation 16(1) of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations, 2015, the Company has informed that a meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 29, 2021 at 01:30 PM to consider, among others, un-audited financial statements of the Company for the First Quarter (Q1) period ended on March 31, 2021.  
 Post Date: 2021-04-21

# Daily Business News

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