



Photo Gallery

AT A GLANCE

Bangladesh among 4 LDCs that met broadband target in 2021

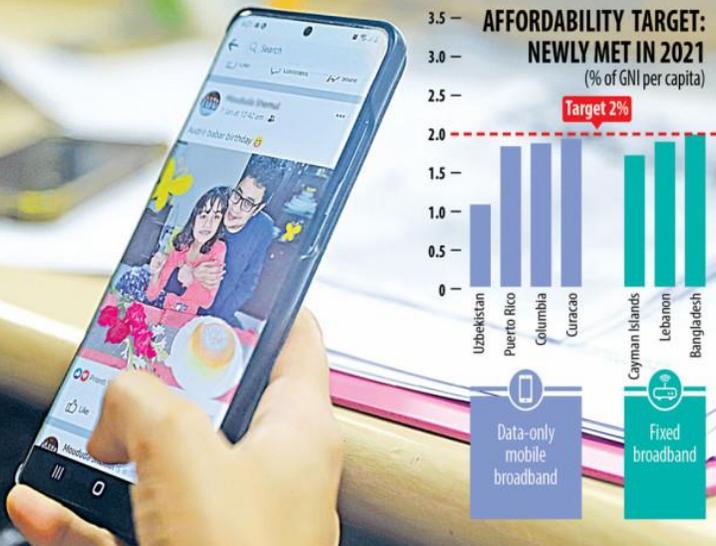
Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal are the remaining three

BY THE NUMBERS

Total internet users in Bangladesh: 12.18cr

Mobile internet users: 11.17cr

Broadband internet users: 1.01cr



Daily Business News

March 28, 2022

BUSINESS NEWS ANALYSIS REPORT

Capital Market News

Stocks slide marginally after bumpy ride

Stocks ended slightly lower on Sunday as investors turned cautious for making fresh bets on stocks amid lack of clear direction. The market moved between positive and negative several times before closing lower as investors hesitated to make fresh investments in the market amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, went down by 11.32 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 6,741, after gaining 2.47 points in the previous day. The DSE 30 Index, comprising blue chips, also dropped 3.83 points to finish at 2,462. However, the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) advanced 1.26 points to close at 1,458.

Turnover, the crucial indicator of the market, stood at Tk 8.58 billion, which was 3.50 per cent higher than the previous day's tally of Tk 8.29 billion. Market insiders said the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict escalated inflationary pressure which held back many investors from putting fresh bets on stocks. The investors followed cautious on making fresh aggressive bets in stocks as commodity price hikes and inflation emerged as headaches for the average-income families that might hurt corporate earnings ultimately, said a leading broker. Losers took a strong lead over the gainers as out of 378 issues traded, 219 declined, 117 advanced and 42 remained unchanged on the DSE trading floor.

Beximco continued to top the turnover list with shares worth Tk 920 million changing hands, followed by Fortune Shoes (Tk 671 million), Orion Pharma (Tk 439 million), Premier Bank (Tk 321 million) and Fu-Wang Food (Tk

260 million). Bangladesh National Insurance Company was the top gainer, posting a 9.95 per cent gain, while ICB Islamic Bank was the day's worst loser, losing 6.12 per cent following its corporate declarations.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-slide-marginally-after-bumpy-ride-1648374895>

BSEC to sit with market intermediaries to increase liquidity

As part of its measures to prop up the capital market, the securities regulator has planned a coordination meeting with the market intermediaries to discuss how to increase liquidity supply to the country's volatile equity market. On Sunday, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) sent letters to the market intermediaries inviting them to the meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

The representatives of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh

(DBA), Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association (BMBA), Association of Asset Management Companies and Mutual Funds (AAMCMF), and Capital Market Stabilisation Fund (CMSF) will take part in the coordination meeting. The capital market took a hit from the Russia-Ukraine war that broke out a month ago and it has yet to come out of that volatility. On Sunday, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the country's premier bourse, closed in a downward trend.

Mohammad Rezaul Karim, executive director and spokesman of BSEC, said the commission has recently taken several initiatives to increase fund flow to the capital market. It will also discuss with the market intermediaries about institutional investments from the banking sector and brokerage firms, in particular, he said. He said the market regulator will also discuss with the intermediaries the proposal of merchant banks on the formation of a fund of Tk10,000 crore to support the capital market. How to create this fund and how it can be used and the impact of the market along with market stabilisation funds said the executive director.

Besides, the regulator will also discuss the role of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh as the market maker, he added. Recently, the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association sent a proposal to the commission for setting up a special fund of Tk10,000 crore for the stock market intermediaries.

According to BMBA leaders, by raising the fund through issuing bonds, the market intermediaries could be provided with long-term loans at low-interest rates. Special credit facilities will increase the capacity of the intermediaries. So that they can deal with the pressure of

panic selloffs by general investors, they added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-sit-market-intermediaries-increase-liquidity-392382>

Industry News

BB launches Tk 399 crore IsDB-funded project for CMSMEs

The Bangladesh Bank on Sunday launched an Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)-funded financing project for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises. The project was launched against an agreement of the government with the Islamic Development Bank under a project titled 'Line of Finance to Support SMEs Project under the IsDB SPRP for Covid-19, Restore Track'. The BB is designated as executing agency of the project worth around Tk 398.58 crore.

Under the project, the central bank would issue financing facility under Shariah compliant method to eligible banks and NBFIs for supporting the CMSME sector. The tenure of the project is two years. Financing would be given under five criteria — manufacturing industry, service industry, trading, women-led enterprises and youth — to the CMSMEs. A manufacturing entity or enterprise with total cost of fixed asset less than Tk 10 lakh and not more than 15 employees would be considered as a cottage sector entity. The same parameters would be determined for selection of a service-oriented micro enterprise.

A manufacturing-oriented micro enterprise with the cost of fixed asset ranging between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 75 lakh along with 16-30 manpower would be considered eligible. For

manufacturing-oriented small enterprises, the total asset ranging between Tk 75 lakh to tk 1.5 crore along with manpower ranging between 31 and 120 would be considered parameters. The total asset value ranging between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 2 crore along with 16-50 employees or manpower would be considered as a service-oriented small enterprise.

For manufacturing-oriented medium enterprises, the total asset ranging between Tk 1.5 crore to Tk 50 crore along with manpower ranging between 120 and 300 (1000 for RMG and labour consuming industry) would be considered as parameters. The total asset value ranging between Tk 2 crore and Tk 30 crore along with 51-120 employees or manpower would be considered as parameters for determining a service-oriented medium enterprise.

Prior to this, the central bank in March 2022 launched an Asian Development Bank-funded \$150 million or Tk 1,290 crore in refinance scheme to support setting up cottage, micro and small enterprises by returning migrant workers, youths and rural enterprises. Apart from the two projects, the second phase of stimulus package for the CMSMEs worth Tk 20,000 is still in operation. From July 2021 to February 2022, the banks and non-bank financial institutions disbursed Tk 6,842.13 crore to 43,849 enterprises.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166517/bb-launches-tk-399-crore-isdb-funded-project-for-cmsmes>

Economy News

Bangladesh meets UN target

Bangladesh has met the affordability target on internet prices set by the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development in 2021. The information was revealed in a recent report of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Alliance for Affordable Internet, giving a high-level overview of the results from the 2021 price data collection exercise, focusing on changes in affordability. In 2018, the commission set its updated affordability target: to bring prices for entry-level broadband services below 2 per cent of the average monthly gross national income per capita by 2025.

According to the report, among the economies for which data were available for both 2020 and 2021, fewer met the affordability target in 2021 than in 2020. Only 96 economies hit the goal with regard to the data-only mobile broadband basket in 2021, seven less than the previous year, and only 64 economies reached the target with respect to the fixed broadband basket, down by two from the previous year.

Bangladesh met the target of affordability for both broadband and mobile internet, according to the report. The prices of broadband baskets remained far above the 2 per cent target for most of the least-developed countries (LDCs). Of the 18 economies where mobile broadband internet access cost more than 10 per cent of GNI per capita, 16 were LDCs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-meets-un-target-2992061>

Company News

Mir Akhter Hossain to form subsidiary company

Mir Akhter Hossain will form a subsidiary company-Mir Steel Mills- to meet the company's own demand for raw materials along with enhancing its profit through a new business wing. The company's board of directors recently has taken the decision of forming the said subsidiary company, a disclosure said.

"Mir Akhter Hossain will hold the majority shares of the company," said the disclosure posted on the website of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Asked, an official of Mir Akhter Hossain, one of the leading infrastructure companies, said their company is a top consumer of different raw materials such as rod and steel.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/mir-akhter-hossain-to-form-subsidiary-company-1648441723>

GP to invest more in digital expansion

Grameenphone wants to contribute more beyond connectivity operations in Bangladesh to become a partner in the latter's journey towards digital transformation. GP top brass said the telecom service provider will increase its investment to expand digital telco services to the rural areas more intensively. They also reaffirmed commitment to reduce digital divide by including left-outs in Digital Bangladesh.

Yasir Azman, chief executive officer of GP, along with other top officials spoke at a press conference in a city hotel on Sunday to celebrate 25th founding anniversary of the telecom operator. The officials said

dream of GP started with a vision to minimise digital divide and unleash the nation's potential with the power of digitalisation. Standing at its Silver Jubilee, Grameenphone feels honoured for its contributions to Bangladesh and aims to make a difference in the coming years, as the company believes the time is now to march forward with digital connectivity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/gp-to-invest-more-in-digital-expansion-1648442509>

Khulna Power shares skyrocket with extension of tenure

Khulna Power Company Limited shares shot up in value on Thursday after the government extended for two years, the tenure of two power plants belonging to the country's first independent power producer. Its shares closed 9.72% higher and the company was the top gainer of all listed companies at the country's premier bourse – the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

A senior officer at a brokerage firm, upon condition of anonymity, said there was a lot of demand for Khulna Power shares on Thursday, but many did not sell, so most of the session, the trading of its shares was halted. Later, 28 lakh of its shares valued at Tk9.78 crore traded, closing at Tk35 per share. The shares of Summit Power and Orion Pharma were also on an upward trajectory because the power plants – owned by the two companies – also gained tenure extensions for two years.

On Thursday, Summit Power shares ended 1.03% higher at Tk39.20 and Orion Pharma shares were 3.70% up at Tk106.60 on the DSE. On Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase approved a

proposal to extend the tenure of five rental power plants for two years. The five power plants include Khulna Power Company's 40MW Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) based plant at Noapara in Jashore, and a 115MW HFO-based plant in Khulna's Goalpara.

Orion Pharma's subsidiaries – Dutch Bangla Power and Associates' 100MW HFO-based plant, and Orion Power Meghnaghat Ltd's 100MW HFO-based plant – both located in Narayanganj – are the two others to have gotten tenure extensions. And Summit Narayanganj Power Ltd's 102MW HFO-based plant in

Madanganj of Narayanganj was the fifth plant to get government approval for tenure extension.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/khulna-power-shares-skyrocket-extension-tenure-390830>

Price Sensitive News

Trading Code: DUTCHBANGL

News Title: DUTCHBANGL: Resumption after record date

News: Trading of the shares of the Company will resume on 29.03.2022 after record date.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: LINDEBD

News Title: LINDEBD: Spot News

News: Trading of the shares of the Company will be allowed only in the Spot Market and Block transactions will also be settled as per Spot settlement cycle with cum benefit from 29.03.2022 to 30.03.2022. Trading of the shares of the Company will remain suspended on record date i.e., 31.03.2022.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: UNITEDFIN

News Title: UNITEDFIN: Dividend Declaration (Additional Information)

News: (Continuation news UNITEDFIN): The main reason for this significant change is the cash generation from term and other deposits of BDT 1,365.48 million and short term loan of BDT 1,725.71 million in 2021 which was BDT (38.19) million and (1,606.35) million respectively in 2020. As a result, net cash flow from operating activities is BDT 1,502.56 million in 2021 which was BDT (1,388.98) million in 2020. (end)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: UNITEDFIN

News Title: UNITEDFIN: Dividend Declaration (Additional Information)

News: Dividend Declaration (Additional Information): The Company has further informed that reasons for significant deviation in NOCFPS: Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) is calculated based on net cash flows from operating activities divided by number of shares outstanding. NOCFPS for the year ended December 31, 2021 is BDT 5.63, which was BDT (7.42) in 31 December, 2020. (cont.)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: CNATEX

News Title: CNATEX: Regularizing gas line and other utilities

News: The Company has informed that Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) has approved the re-connection of gas line of the Company after full payment of previous gas bills BDT 2,89,41,187.00. The Company has also informed that all other utilities connection (i.e. electricity, water etc.) of the factory has been re-connected after full payment of past dues.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: PRIMEBANK

News Title: PRIMEBANK: Emphasis of matter

News: The auditor of the Prime Bank Limited has given the "Emphasis of matter" paragraph in the Auditor's Report on the consolidated audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021. Emphasis of matter: a) In note # 2.5 to the financial statements, the Bank disclosed that the revaluation of its land and building was conducted in 2008 and

2013. In our opinion, the Bank was not in compliance with the provisions of para-31 and 34 of International Accounting Standard-16. (cont.)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

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Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: PTL

News Title: PTL: Reschedule date of the EGM

News: Refer to their earlier news disseminated by DSE on 16.02.2022 regarding Cancellation of EGM of the Company, the Company has further informed that the Board of Directors has decided for re-fixing the EGM date. Date of EGM: 17.05.2022, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: Digital Platform. Record Date for EGM: 19.04.2022.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: BBSCABLES

News Title: BBSCABLES: Credit Rating Result

News: National Credit Ratings Limited (NCR) has announced the surveillance entity rating of the Company as "A+" in the long term and "ST-2" in the short term along with a stable outlook based on audited financial statements as on June 30, 2021.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: MONNOFABR

News Title: MONNOFABR: Credit Rating Result

News: National Credit Ratings Limited (NCR) has announced the surveillance entity rating of the Company as "A" in the long term and "ST-2" in the short term along with a developing outlook based on audited financial statements as on June 30, 2021.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: LHBL

News Title: LHBL: Permission for Re-starting of Aggregate business

News: (Continuation news of LHBL): Accordingly, the Company is re-starting its Aggregates business with immediate effect. In the letter, the Ministry of Industries also mentioned that the permission shall be valid until the Government of Bangladesh finalizes the Policy for producing aggregates through crushing limestone. After such Policy is published by the Government, the Company has to apply again for the permission under the Policy. (end)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: LHBL

News Title: LHBL: Permission for Re-starting of Aggregate business

News: Refer to their earlier news disseminated by DSE on 17.11.2021, 24.11.2021, 06.01.2022, 19.01.2022, 24.01.2022 and 01.02.2022 regarding aggregate business of the Company, the Company has further informed that, the Ministry of Industries issued a letter giving the Company permission to produce and sell aggregates in open market. (Cont.)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: 1JANATAMF

News Title: 1JANATAMF: Weekly NAV

News: On the close of operation on March 24, 2022, the Fund has reported Net Asset Value (NAV) of Tk. 10.97 per unit on the basis of current market price and Tk. 11.12 per unit on the basis of cost price against face value of Tk. 10.00 whereas total Net Assets of the Fund stood at Tk. 3,180,445,711.00 on the basis of market price and Tk. 3,223,307,694.00 on the basis of cost price after considering all assets and liabilities of the Fund.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: SUMITPOWER

News Title: SUMITPOWER: Verbal consent from BPDB to purchase electricity

News: (Continuation news of SUMITPOWER): BPDB has also verbally instructed to resume operation of the said power plant. The Company has already started resuming operation from March 24, 2022 which remained closed since April 01, 2021 due to expiry of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). BPDB and the Company are in the process of finalizing amended PPA for new term of 2 years from the date of signing of PPA. (end)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: SUMITPOWER

News Title: SUMITPOWER: Verbal consent from BPDB to purchase electricity

News: Refer to their earlier news disseminated by DSE on 27.09.2021 regarding Expiry of Madanganj Power Plant, the Company further informed that Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has verbally informed that the Cabinet Purchase Committee of the Government of Bangladesh has approved purchase of electricity on "No electricity No Payment" basis for 2 years from 102 MW HFO Fired Narayanganj (Madanganj) Power Plant (Unit 1) of Summit Power Limited. The Company has not received any official letter yet. (cont.)

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Trading Code: PRIMEBANK

News Title: PRIMEBANK: Dividend Declaration

News: The Board of Directors has recommended 17.50% cash dividend for the year ended December 31, 2021. Date of AGM: 12.05.2022, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: Digital Platform. Record Date: 19.04.2022. The Company has also reported Consolidated EPS of Tk. 2.87, Consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 26.26 and Consolidated NOCFPS of Tk. 9.65 for the year ended December 31, 2021 as against Tk. 1.61, Tk. 25.15 and Tk. (1.33) respectively for the same period of the previous year.

Post Date: 2022-03-28

Daily Business News

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