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## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks rise for 2nd day as insurance cos swell

Newage, April 29, 2021

- Dhaka stocks advanced for the second day on Thursday as investors continued buying shares, especially those of insurance companies amid optimism. DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, advanced by 0.33 per cent, or 18.27 points, to close at 5,479.61 points on Thursday after gaining 38.95 points in the previous day. Before the two-day rise, the DSEX lost 75.81 points in two sessions.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission directive issued on Tuesday that 12 per cent ceiling on margin loan interest rate would be implemented on January 1, 2022 removed confusion among investors over the issue, they said. There was confusion among investors whether the implication date would be July 1, 2021 or January 1, 2022 after the DSE had asked brokerage houses to adjust the rate on July 1.
- The insurance sector continued dominating the market trend as the sector logged 35 per cent of the day's total turnover and share prices of the sector soared by 4.8 per cent on Thursday. Out of the top 10 gainers, seven were insurance companies.
- In addition, share prices of miscellaneous, energy and bank sectors increased by 0.6 per cent, 0.4 per cent and 0.38 per cent respectively. Turnover on the DSE increased to Tk 1,172.88 crore on Thursday from Tk 940.32 crore in the previous session.
- Beximco Pharmaceuticals, British American Tobacco, National Feed Mills, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, LankaBangla Finance, Republic Insurance, Robi, Paramount Insurance and Bangladesh National Insurance Company were the other turnover leaders on the day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/136714/stocks-rise-for-2nd-day-as-insurance-cos-swell>

## Bank Asia declares 10% cash dividend for 2020

The Business Standard, April 29, 2021

- Bank Asia Ltd has declared a 10% cash dividend for the year of 2020 at its 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday. The meeting was held virtually through a digital platform due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the bank said in a press statement.
- Shareholders expressed their satisfaction to the overall performance of the Bank and approved the accounts for the year 2020, it added.
- A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting. Md Safwan Choudhury, vice chairman of the bank, Rume A Hossain, chairman, Board Executive Committee, Dilwar H Choudhury, chairman, Board Audit Committee, MA Baqui Khalily, chairman of the Board Risk Management Committee, Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director, SM Anisuzzaman, company secretary, and Directors Enam Chowdhury, Romana Rouf Chowdhury, Ashraful Haq Chowdhury, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Matiur Rahman, Md Abul Quasem, Tania Nusrat Zaman, joined the AGM among others.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/bank-asia-declares-10-cash-dividend-2020-239296>

## BSEC moves to facilitate renewal of PPAs with listed power companies

The Financial Express, April 29, 2021

- The securities regulator has moved to facilitate the renewal of the power purchase agreements (PPAs) earlier signed between the government and some listed power companies. As part of the move, the BSEC has urged the Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources to provide information regarding the scope of renewing the listed power companies' PPA.
- According to BSEC information, Baraka Power, Dhaka Electric Supply Company, Doreen Power Generation and Systems, Energypac Power Generation, GBB Power, Khulna Power Company, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Shahjibazar Power Company, Summit Power and United Power Generation and Distribution Company have signed PPAs with the government. Institutions and general investors have shares ranging between 10 per cent and 68.97 per cent in these listed companies.
- Of listed power companies, Khulna Power Company is providing electricity under two PPA agreements earlier signed with the government. The tenures of those agreements will end by May 31, 2021.
- In its letter sent to the ministry, the securities regulator said general investors of Khulna Power Company have not yet got back their investments through the dividend so far distributed by the company.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bsec-moves-to-facilitate-renewal-of-ppas-with-listed-power-companies-1619672977>

## Standard Bank declares 2.5pc cash, 2.5pc stock dividend

The Financial Express, April 29, 2021

- The board of directors of Standard Bank has recommended 2.5 per cent cash and 2.5 per cent stock dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2020. The record date is set for June 6, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Thursday.
- The bank has also reported consolidated EPS of Tk 1.08, consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 16.67 and consolidated NOCFPS of negative Tk. 6.99 for the year ended on December 31, 2020, as against Tk 1.50, Tk 16.15 and Tk 9.44 respectively for the same period of the previous year.
- The bank has also informed that 2.5 per cent stock dividend for the year 2020 has been declared in order to strengthen Tier-1 capital base of the Bank as per Basel-III requirement for the coming year and the bonus share has been declared out of accumulated profit.

- The bank also disclosed first quarter (Q1) un-audited financial statements. As per the Q1 reports, consolidated EPS was Tk 0.17 for January-March 2021 as against Tk 0.36 for January-March 2020; Consolidated NOCFPS was negative Tk 9.37 for January-March 2021 as against negative Tk 5.30 for January-March 2020.
- Its paid-up capital is Tk 10.05 billion and authorised capital is Tk 15 billion, while the total number of securities is 1.0 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/standard-bank-declares-25pc-cash-25pc-stock-dividend-1619671418>

## Reckitt Benckiser declares record 1400pc cash dividend

The Financial Express, May 01, 2021

- Reckitt Benckiser, a UK-based listed multinational company, has declared 1400 per cent cash dividend for the year 2020 as the company earned record profit, thanks to the boom in disinfectant business amid the ongoing pandemic.
- The board of directors of the company recommended the dividend and approved the audited financial statements for the year ended on December 31, 2020, at a meeting held Thursday, according to an official disclosure on Friday.
- The company has also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 156.38, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 170.95, and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 290.57 for the year ended on December 31, 2020, as against Tk 131.06, Tk 142.64 and Tk 176.55 respectively of the year the previous year.
- The company disbursed 1250 per cent cash dividend in 2019, 700 per cent cash in 2018, 790 per cent cash in 2017, 775 per cent cash in 2016, and 650 per cent cash dividend in 2015, the DSE data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/reckitt-benckiser-declares-record-1400pc-cash-dividend-1619844506>

## LankaBangla Finance approves 12% dividend for shareholders

The Business Standard, April 30, 2021

- LankaBangla Finance Limited approved a 12% dividend at the 24th Annual General Meeting on Thursday. In participation of the shareholders, LankaBangla Finance Chairman Mohammad A Moyeen presided over the Annual General Meeting held on digital platform.
- During the meeting, shareholders approved the Audited Financial Statements of the company for the year ended December 31, 2020.
- Khwaja Shahriar, managing director and CEO, briefed the participants on the overall status, work plan and performance of the organisation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/lankabangla-finance-approves-12-dividend-shareholders-239674>

## Economy & Industry

### Focus on health and social protection, not GDP growth

The Daily Star, April 30, 2021

- The upcoming budget should focus on health, social protection and job creation to shield the people from the impacts of the second wave of the coronavirus, instead of putting too much attention on economic growth, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said yesterday.
- The think-tank also reiterated the need for an expansionary macroeconomic stance in the budget for 2021-22, accommodating the required additional public spending.

- In the immediate term, the government will need to focus on health risk mitigation and ensuring food security through expanded safety nets.
- The CPD made the calls in its budget proposals, which were presented during a virtual media briefing.
- The budget for FY22 is being prepared in the backdrop of a number of disquieting developments in the economy: weak performance of the FY21 budget implementation; the persistence of adverse impacts of the first wave of Covid-19; continuing stagnation in private investment; the second wave; and failure of the external sector to pick-up.
- The report said as introducing new taxes or raising tax rates might be difficult, more emphasis should be given to the enforcement of tax measures and curbing tax evasion.

## CPD SAYS...



- Focus on health, social protection and employment, not GDP growth
- Pursue expansionary macroeconomic stance
- Pay special attention to speedy disbursement of foreign assistance
- Set realistic revenue collection target
- Reinstate highest income tax rate of **30%**
- Curb tax evasion
- Initiate wealth and property tax

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/focus-health-and-social-protection-not-gdp-growth-2086161>

## Beximco LPG, My Fuel Pump ink agreement

Newage, April 30, 2021

- Beximco LPG and My Fuel Pump Limited have recently signed an agreement.
- With this agreement, Beximco LPG customers will be able to order Beximco Smart Cylinder through an app.
- Mrinal Roy, chief executive officer of Beximco LPG, M Muntasir Alam, chief commercial officer, and Mehedi Hasan, head of sales and marketing, were present at the signing ceremony. Partha Pratim Choudhury, managing director of My Fuel Pump Limited, was present, said a release on Friday.

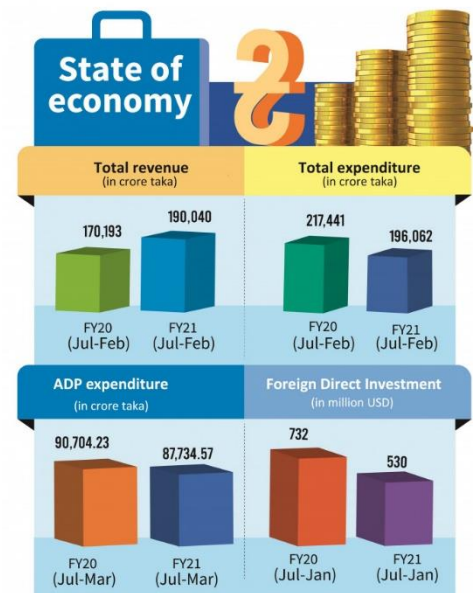
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/136770/beximco-lpg-my-fuel-pump-ink-agreement>

## Key data looks good, but 2nd wave casts shadow

The Business Standard, May 01, 2021

- When major economic indicators were turning around after the first wave of Covid-19, the second wave of the pandemic has emerged as a potent threat to that recovery. Most of the growth indicators – import-export and industrial raw material imports – were in a strong position to bring the economy back to its strong pre-pandemic status.
- Even though the demand-generating indicators showed a positive trend over the past year after recovering from Covid-19 fallout, indicators vital for ensuring long-term sustainability of the economy by creating investment and employment were far behind the pre-pandemic level before the renewed outbreak.
- Import of capital machinery in the July-February period of the current fiscal year has seen a negative growth of over 24% compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Credit flows to the private sector were declining and growths of domestic and foreign investments were in a negative trend. The finance ministry fears these would worsen further due to the ongoing lockdown.

- In the wake of a declining trend in private and foreign investments, the last budget plan spoke of initiatives to keep the economy strong by increasing government spending. However, the reality is quite the opposite.
- During July-February of this fiscal year, both development and current expenditures of the government decreased compared to the previous year. This shows the government has failed to execute its plan to increase investment and encourage the private sector to invest amid the ongoing economic crisis.
- In July-February of the last financial year, the total expenditure of the government was Tk2,17,441 crore, while in the same period of the current fiscal, it was Tk1,96,061 crore.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/key-data-looks-good-2nd-wave-casts-shadow-239776>

## International

### US goods trade deficit hits record high in March

The Daily Star, April 29, 2021

- The US trade deficit in goods jumped to a record high in March, suggesting trade was a drag on economic growth in the first quarter, but that was likely offset by robust domestic demand amid massive government aid and easing pandemic stress.
- The goods trade deficit surged 4.0 per cent to \$90.6b last month, the highest in the history of the series. Exports of goods accelerated 8.7 per cent to \$142.0b. The jump in exports was offset by a 6.8 per cent advance in imports to \$232.6b.
- Imports rose across the board. There were large gains in imports of motor vehicles, industrial supplies, consumer goods and food. Capital goods imports also rose solidly. Stocks on Wall Street were mixed. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. US Treasury prices were mixed.
- The rise in Covid-19 vaccinations and the White House's \$1.9t pandemic rescue package have allowed for greater economic re-engagement, boosting consumer spending, hiring and business spending on equipment.
- Some of the goods imported in March ended up in warehouses at wholesalers, which could blunt the drag on GDP growth from trade. The Commerce Department reported wholesale inventories shot up 1.4 per cent last month after rising 0.9 per cent in February.
- But stocks at retailers tumbled 1.4 per cent after gaining 0.1 per cent in February. Retail inventories excluding autos, which go into the calculation of GDP, rose 0.6 per cent after advancing 1.4 per cent in February.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-goods-trade-deficit-hits-record-high-march-2085565>

## Disclaimer

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## About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

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