

Stock Market

Stocks inch down as investors eye quarterly reports with caution

New Age, April 24, 2018

- Dhaka stocks inched down on Monday, stretching the losses to second day as investors took a cautious approach amid lower-than-expected earnings declarations by a number of large capitalised companies.
- The key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, dipped 0.12 %, or 7.15 points, to close at 5,806.13 points on the day after losing 30.18 points in the previous session.
- DSEX went through a topsy-turvy session with few ups and downs and eventually settling in the negative zone.
- The plunge in share prices of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh and Square Pharmaceuticals weighed most on the day.
- The turnover at the bourse also declined further to BDT 485.65 crore on Monday compared with that of BDT 492.41 crore in the previous session.
- Average share prices of cement, non-bank financial institutions and bank sectors declined by 1.3 %, 1.1 % and 0.31 % respectively.
- Share prices of food and pharmaceuticals sectors increased by 1.1 % and 0.2 % respectively.
- Of the 335 companies and mutual funds traded on the day, 152 declined, 130 advanced, and 54 remained unchanged.
- DS30, the blue-chip index of the DSE, also lost 0.32 %, or 7.21 points, to finish at 2,179.85 points.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/39702/stocks-inch-down-as-investors-eye-quarterly-reports-with-caution>

Z-category stocks see sharp rise

The Financial Express, April 23, 2018

- Rahima Food Corporation witnessed highest gain on Sunday following increased earnings disclosure for the January-March quarter, when the 'Z' category company registered capital gain on sale of land.
- Besides, some other 'Z' category companies continued with their 'unusual' price hike despite there is no undisclosed price sensitive information (PSI) for the recent price hike.
- The companies' share price rose up to 9.97 % on Sunday on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Rahima Food was the top gainer with a rise of 9.97 % in its price. The company witnessed only 23 trades of 3,078 shares on the premier bourse.
- Its share price closed at BDT 141 on April 10. Later, the price rose 18 % to close at 166.60 in eight trading sessions as on Sunday.
- Rahima Food reported EPS of BDT. 8.89 for January-March 2018 as against the loss of BDT 0.13 per share for January-March, 2017.
- The company's net asset value (NAV) per share jumped to BDT. 11.35 as on March 31, 2018 from BDT. 2.82 as on June 30, 2017.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/z-category-stocks-see-sharp-rise-1524457892>

Economy

Textile millers decry proposed gas price hike

The Daily Star April 24, 2018

- Bangladesh Bank has instructed all the banks to comply with a finance ministry notification on pulling deposit from government, semi-government and autonomous entities' by the private banks and non-bank financial institutions.
- The textile millers yesterday expressed concern over the proposed price hike of industrial gas because of which the production cost will increase and they will finally fail to remain competitive in the global market.
- The spinners currently pay BDT 9.62 for every cubic metre of gas and use BDT 8 to BDT 9 worth of gas to produce a kilogramme of yarn, said Shahid Alam, vice chairman of Jalal Ahmed Spinning Mills Ltd.
- But the government now plans to increase the price of a cubic metre of industrial gas by 66 % to BDT 16, which will more than double the production cost of a kg of yarn to BDT 22.
- Alam spoke at a meeting on the existing gas and energy situation in the country's textile sector. Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) organised the event at its office in Dhaka.
- The government has so far increased gas price thrice since September 2015 when per cubic metre of gas for industrial use was sold at BDT 4.18, he said.
- Alam said he installed electronic volume corrector (EVC) gas metres to measure the exact bills and later the court ordered Titas to solve the issue immediately.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/textile-millers-decry-proposed-gas-price-hike-1567015>

Import rises 12pc in March on food grains, machinery

The Financial Express, April 24, 2018

- The country's overall import grew by more than 12 % or US\$ 453.97 Mn in March, mainly due to higher import of food grains and capital machinery, officials said.
- The settlement of letters of credit (LCs), generally known as actual import, in terms of value, rose to \$4.20 Bn in March 2018, from \$3.74 Bn in the same period of the previous calendar year.
- The actual import was \$4.02 Bn in February 2018, according to the central bank's statistics.
- The overall import increased significantly in this March mainly due to higher import of food grains, particularly rice and wheat, as well as capital machinery to meet the growing demand for the essentials in the local market.
- The upward trend in import might continue in the coming months also ahead of the holy Ramadan.
- Rice import rose to \$136.12 Mn in March 2018 from only \$9.0 Mn a year before, while wheat import stood at \$101.88 Mn from \$98.97 Mn, the BB data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/import-rises-12pc-in-march-on-food-grains-machinery-1524541212>

International

U.S debt deluge lifts bond yields to four-year high, Asia stocks down

Reuters, April 24, 2018

- Asian stocks slipped and the U.S. dollar advanced on Tuesday, as a deluge of U.S. government debt this week and the specter of inflation and a higher fiscal deficit drove U.S. borrowing costs near four-year highs.
- MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS fell 0.25 %.
- Japan's Nikkei .N225 rose 0.7 % thanks to fall in the yen.
- U.S. bond prices have fallen for the past four days, pushing up the 10-year yield to 2.998 % US10YT=RR, its highest level since January 2014.
- "There are concerns about inflation, rising oil prices and also U.S. fiscal conditions," said Hiroko Iwaki, senior strategist at Mizuho Securities, noting the U.S. budget deficit is expected to hit \$1 trillion next year.
- The bond market is bracing for combined sales of \$96 Bn in coupon-bearing Treasuries this week as the Treasury has ramped up its borrowing following last year's massive tax overhaul and a two-year budget agreement reached in February.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-markets/u-s-debt-deluge-lifts-bond-yields-to-four-year-high-asia-stocks-down-idUSKBN1HV01Z>

BB asks banks, NBFIs to maintain secrecy of correspondence with BFIU

Reuters, April 23, 2018

- Bangladesh Bank has asked all the banks and non-bank financial institutions to maintain secrecy of correspondences with the central bank's Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.
- The instruction of the central bank was given on Monday in line with the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 and Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.
- BB asked banks and NBFIs to refrain from quoting any reference of any BFIU letter in collecting additional information from its branches or divisions.
- Besides, the BB circulars, issued to the managing director and chief executive officers of banks and NBFIs, instructed the entities to refrain from publishing any information on correspondence between the entities and BFIU.
- In case of suspension or blocking of any account, the institutions were also asked only to quote the related clause of the act instead of quoting or producing reference of BFIU letter.
- Officials of the banks and NBFIs will have to reply to any query of BFIU through official e-mail address by using goAML message board instead of using personal e-mail address.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/39704/bb-asks-banks-nbfis-to-maintain-secrecy-of-correspondence-with-bfiu>

Google CEO tells investors not to worry about Europe's upcoming privacy rules

CNBC, April 24, 2018

- CEO Sundar Pichai tried to quell investor fears over how Google's advertising business will be affected by Europe's upcoming privacy legislation during the company's Q1 earnings call.
- Google is hyper-prepared and it will have little effect on its cash-cow search advertising business.
- The General Data Protection Regulation, which is known as GDPR and is meant to give consumers more control of their data, will go into effect on May 25.
- Any company that breaches the new rules will be fined up to 4 % of its annual global revenue.
- Google's properties revenue, which includes revenue from search as well as its other owned-sites like YouTube and Maps, makes up around 82.6 % of its total advertising revenues.
- But Pichai's answer skips over the effect that GDPR will have on the other 20 % of its advertising revenue, which comes from its Network Members' properties.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/23/google-sundar-pichai-on-gdpr.html>

BASL NEWS

Research & Development

Honorable Chairman of Bank Asia Ltd , Mr. A Rouf Chowdhury, opened the bank's 120th Branch at Banani – 11, in Dhaka on 22nd April, 2018. On that program Mr. Md. Arfan Ali (President & Managing Director), Mr. Md. Anisul Alam Sarker (AVP) Operation Head of Bank Asia Securities Ltd (BASL) along with many officials were presented. Clients can avail trading facilities at this new premise of BASL.



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About Bank Asia Securities (BASL)

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).

BASL Research Team

Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury
Head of Research & Investments

tushar@basl-bd.com, tusharbd@bloomberg.net

Mr. Shohidul Islam
Research Analyst

shohidul@basl-bd.com, shohidulbd@bloomberg.net

Mr. Md. Monirul Islam
Research Associate

abir@basl-bd.com

Mr. Monir Hossain
Research Associate

monir@basl-bd.com

BASL Branches

Head Office

Hadi Mansion (7th Floor)
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-02-9515826-28
Fax: +88-02-9567884

Modhumita Extension Office

158-160 Modhumita Building
(5th Floor)
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Phone: +88-01819118893

Dhanmondi Branch

Meher Plaza (1st Floor),
House # 13/A, Road # 05
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1207
Phone: +8802-8624874-5

Mirpur Branch

Nishi Plaza, plot # 01,
Avenue-04, Section-06, Block-
C
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216
Phone: +88-02-9013841

Uttara Branch

House # 79/A, (4th Floor),
Road # 07, Sector # 04
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-
1230
Phone: +88-02-8958371

Banani Branch

Nur Empori, Plot # 77 (1st
Floor), Road No # 11, Banani,
Dhaka-1213
Phone: +8801716180767

Khulna Branch

28, Sir Iqbal Road (1st Floor)
Khulna
Phone: +88-041-731208-9

For International Trade & Sales, please contact **Mr. Sumon Das, Chief Executive Officer**. Please call at +8801993111666, +880 02 9515826, Ext:101 at Business hour.

For further query, write to us at research@basl-bd.com.