

## Key News

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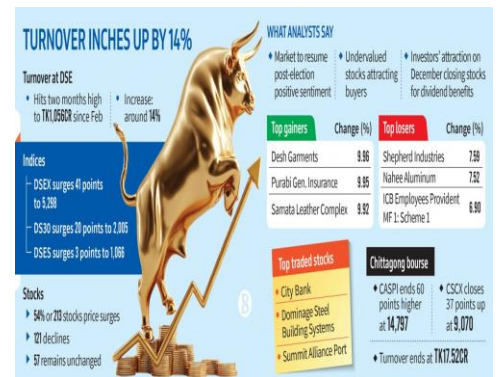
[Hormuz blockade drives up costs at Panama Canal](#)

## Stock Market & Company

### DSE turnover tops Tk1,000cr after two months as stocks extend gains

The Business Standard, Apr 22, 2026

- Stocks at the Dhaka Stock Exchange extended their gains today (22 April), with turnover crossing the Tk1,000-crore mark for the first time in two months as investors increased purchases of oversold and fundamentally strong shares.
- Turnover at the premier bourse rose 13.67% to Tk1,056 crore from Tk929 crore in the previous session, marking the highest level since 17 February, when turnover stood at Tk1,222 crore.
- The benchmark DSEX index gained 41 points to close at 5,299, while the blue-chip DS30 index rose 20 points to 2,005. The Shariah-based DSES index also edged up by 3 points to finish at 1,066.
- Total market capitalisation increased by Tk2,587 crore to Tk6,86,184.18 crore, reflecting stronger investor participation and improved trading activity.
- Market breadth remained sharply positive, as 213 issues advanced compared to 121 declining, with 57 stocks unchanged.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-turnover-tops-tk1000cr-after-two-months-stocks-extend-gains-1418881>

### Singer Bangladesh incurs Tk55.86cr loss in Q1

The Business Standard, Apr 22, 2026

- Singer Bangladesh Ltd reported a loss of Tk55.86 crore in the January-March quarter of 2026, despite posting modest year-on-year revenue growth.
- According to its unaudited financials, the company's sales rose by 3.46% to Tk577.20 crore, up from Tk557.86 crore in the same period last year.
- However, losses widened significantly from Tk35.89 crore in Q1 2025, reflecting mounting cost pressures and weak market demand.
- Commenting on the Q1 financials, the company said that despite a slight increase in turnover, actual sales fell short of expectations due to a stagnant consumer electronics market.
- "Domestic sales were stifled by high inflation, geopolitical tensions, and unfavourable weather, while the national election and extended Eid holidays further dampened demand," it said.
- Although gross profit margins remained stable, Singer noted that rising costs could not be fully passed on to consumers due to strong price sensitivity in the market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/singer-bangladesh-incurs-tk5586cr-loss-q1-1418896>

## Grameenphone posts higher profit despite revenue decline in Q1

The Business Standard, Apr 22, 2026

- Grameenphone, the country's largest telecom operator, reported a 4.40% year-on-year rise in net profit to Tk662 crore in the January-March quarter of 2025, up from Tk634 crore in the same period last year, even as revenue declined.
- According to a company disclosure issued today (22 April), the earnings growth was supported by lower depreciation and amortisation costs, reduced finance expenses, and improved operational efficiency across the business.
- Despite macroeconomic pressures, earnings per share (EPS) increased to Tk4.90 from Tk4.69 a year earlier, reflecting stronger profitability per share.
- Revenue, however, fell 2.0% year-on-year to Tk3,758 crore from Tk3,835 crore, largely due to challenging economic conditions. The decline was partially offset by growth in data services, which helped cushion weaker voice revenue.
- The company maintained a strong EBITDA margin of around 58%, although it recorded a slight 1.5% decline year-on-year due to lower revenue. Operating expenses dropped 2%, while cost of goods sold fell 7.3%, indicating tighter cost control without affecting service quality.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/telecom/grameenphone-posts-higher-profit-despite-revenue-decline-q1-1418871>

## Ibn Sina posts 33% EPS growth in 9-month despite Q3 dip

The Business Standard, Apr 22, 2026

- Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry PLC reported a strong growth in earnings for the first nine months of the current fiscal year, despite a decline in its third-quarter performance.
- According to its price-sensitive information, the company's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk19.94 during the July-March period, marking a 32.75% increase compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- The company's board approved the third-quarter financial statements at a meeting held today (22 April) in line with listing regulations. The financials are yet to be audited.
- However, in the third quarter alone (January-March), the company's EPS declined by 16% to Tk4.67, down from Tk5.55 recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier.
- Meanwhile, the company's consolidated net asset value (NAV) increased to Tk434.61 crore, up from Tk392.69 crore in the previous period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ibn-sina-posts-33-eps-growth-9-month-despite-q3-dip-1418776>

## Economy & Industry

### Japan's Lion enters Bangladesh FMCG market with local production

The Business Standard, Apr 23, 2026

- Japanese household and personal care giant Lion Corporation has begun production in Bangladesh, targeting a share of the country's 18 crore-strong consumer market.
- The company, which dates back to 1891, entered the Bangladeshi market in 2022 through a joint venture – Lion Kallol Limited – with the local Kallol Group, in which it holds a 75% stake.
- Commercial operations started last month at its factory in the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone in Araihaaz, widely known as the Japanese Economic Zone.
- The plant has begun production with two flagship products – Mama Lemon dishwashing liquid and Systema toothbrush – while the company plans to gradually expand its portfolio of household and personal care items.

- A visit to the factory on 9 April showed a compact, elevated single-storey facility reflecting Japanese industrial discipline and efficiency. Product displays at the entrance featured a range of items, including Kodomo baby care products, Jet fabric-cleaning products, and oral care offerings.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/japans-lion-enters-bangladesh-fmkg-market-local-production-1419026>

## Japan's Mitsubishi takes 25% stake in Rancon Auto

The Business Standard, Apr 23, 2026

- Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation has signed a strategic agreement with Bangladesh's Rancon Auto Industries Limited (RAIL), acquiring a 25% equity stake in a deal aimed at strengthening the country's vehicle manufacturing, sales and distribution.
- The agreement was signed in Dhaka yesterday, marking a significant step in Mitsubishi's deeper engagement with Bangladesh's emerging automotive sector.
- The partnership is expected to unlock opportunities in technology transfer, workforce development, and improved customer service, while supporting the country's gradual shift from an import-dependent automobile market toward local assembly and manufacturing, backed by government incentives.
- Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat, and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Saida Shinichi attended the signing ceremony.
- Under the arrangement, Mitsubishi Corporation—operating in over 90 countries—joins RAIL as a strategic investor. The collaboration is expected to generate synergies in manufacturing optimisation and distribution efficiency, enhancing service delivery for Bangladeshi consumers and potentially regional markets. It is also expected to strengthen supply chain resilience and boost sales and marketing capacity through Mitsubishi's global network and expertise.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/japans-mitsubishi-takes-25-stake-rancon-auto-1419001>

## International

### Hormuz blockade drives up costs at Panama Canal

The Daily Star, Apr 23, 2026

- The war in the Middle East has boosted demand to move vital cargo through the Panama Canal to such an extent that one vessel carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) paid \$4 million to skip the line and avoid a wait that can take up to five days, according to an official report.
- A surge in such payments has been recorded since the US-Israeli attacks on Iran began February 28, which led to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for one-fifth of the world's oil and natural gas exports from Gulf countries.
- To meet fuel demand, Asia's refineries are choosing to buy oil or gas from the United States and ship it through the transoceanic waterway instead of purchasing from Gulf countries who rely on the Strait of Hormuz, according to reports from the Panama Canal Authority.
- The average number of ships passing through the canal on a daily basis has "remained strong," the authority told AFP in a statement Tuesday, with 34 ships in January and 37 ships in March. Some days exceeded 40 transits.
- "The increase reflects changes in global trade patterns and market conditions, including geopolitical factors affecting key routes," the authority said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/hormuz-blockade-drives-costs-panama-canal-4158281>

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