

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX										
▼ 1.56%	▼ 1.66%	Gold ▲	Oil ▲	MUMBAI ▲	TOKYO ▼	SINGAPORE ▼	SHANGHAI ▼	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
5,349.77	9,342.96	\$1,744.74 (per ounce)	\$64.53 (per barrel)	49,858.24	29,792.05	3,134.54	3,404.66	BUY TK 83.95	98.88	115.61	12.67
								SELL TK 84.95	102.68	119.41	13.32

OPENING OF

BADDA SUB-BRANCH

Cha-63/6 North Badda
Pragati Sarani Road
Badda, Dhaka

BRAHMANPARA SUB-BRANCH

Haji Market
Brahmanpara, Cumilla.

22 March 2021

Call Center 16491

SIBL

star

BD

BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 22, 2021, CHAITRA 8, 1427 BS
 starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Booming orders bolster e-commerce logistics

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Logistics companies that cater to online businesses in Bangladesh have prospered during the coronavirus pandemic, as an increasing number of people moved to digital platforms to make purchases.

The convenience of being able to shop for most products from the comfort of one's home is a key driving force behind the massive growth in online retail platforms and f-commerce as well.

Besides, online retail platforms make it possible for people to avoid the risk of infection since the goods are delivered to their doorstep, usually by independent logistics aggregators.

This led to a 50 per cent spike in home deliveries amid the pandemic, according to industry insiders.

"Logistics companies related to online sales have huge potential in Bangladesh as e-commerce currently accounts for just one per cent of the total retail sales,"

LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR ONLINE ORDERS

MARKET SHARE



TOP LOGISTICS COMPANIES

- Paperfly, e-courier, E-logistics
- Redx, Pathao, Biddyt
- Delivery Tiger, eDesh

TOP FOOD DELIVERY PLATFORMS

- Foodpanda, e-food,
- Pathao, Shohoz, HungryNaki

PLATFORMS WITH OWN/ HIRED DELIVERY

- Chaldal, Khaas Food, Domino's Pizza, Daraz, Priyoshop, Shwapno



RASHED SHUMON

Logistics companies are capitalising on the need for social distancing, reaching customers their products of desire from the markets to their doorsteps. The photo was taken on Elephant Road in the capital yesterday.

said AKM Fahim Mashroor, chief executive officer of AjkerDeal, an e-commerce platform.

"That's why many new players are coming into the business while existing players are ramping up their capacities," he added.

E-commerce accounts for 24 per cent of all retail sales in China. The market size in India surpassed \$60 billion in 2020, according to Statista, a German market and

consumer data company.

Strong and effective logistics services have played a pivotal role in expanding the local e-commerce market.

Similarly, e-commerce is the main catalyst for the rise of logistics behemoths -- Delhivery, Ecom Express and Shiprocket in India and Cainiao and JD Logistics in China.

Sensing the huge prospect of

logistics in Bangladesh, Indian end-to-end e-commerce logistics solution provider Ecom Express acquired a majority stake in Bangladesh's home delivery service provider Paperfly for around Tk 100 crore in January.

Ecom Express covers the majority of states in India, delivering more than 5 lakh products per day.

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Curbing graft would make economy stronger

Finance minister says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The country could have progressed more if its economy is made vibrant by controlling corruption in an honest, efficient and effective manner, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday said.

"We must be able to reach our expected goal with our own capability. If we can avoid misuses and distortions existing in different areas of our economy, it would make our economy vibrant in an effective, efficient and transparent manner," he said.

Kamal made these comments while speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of Mujib Corner and Bangabandhu Mural at Janata Bank. The minister joined the programme through a virtual platform.

Citing a quote of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that says independence would be valueless if each countryman cannot get food, accommodation and a sound life, the minister urged all to continue working to achieve economic emancipation as dreamt by the father of the nation.



AHM Mustafa Kamal

Mentioning that Bangabandhu desired for Bangladesh to be amongst developed countries, Kamal said the country's first step towards that direction is to attain graduation from the least developed grouping.

Every country that got an opportunity to make progress at one time or another acted promptly to make it possible, Kamal said while stressing on the need for capitalising on opportunities created by demographic dividend.

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Mizoram wants to use Ctg port

Says Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mizoram, a northeastern state of India, wants to use Bangladesh's Chattogram port to increase bilateral trade, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said yesterday.

"The Indian state wants to use the premier Bangladeshi port to increase trade with us."

Munshi informed the media about the development after a meeting with R Lalhangliana, Mizoram's minister for health, education and commerce, at the secretariat yesterday.

Bangladesh and Mizoram have

Bangladesh and Mizoram have around 319 common border points, most of which are landlocked with poor connectivity



around 319 common bordering areas, most of which suffer from landlock and poor connectivity. As a result, the volume and value of formal trade between Bangladesh and Mizoram is still very low.

The Mizoram government has expressed interest to open four border haats so that the people in those areas can enjoy the benefits of

bilateral trade, Munshi said.

"We plan to open at least one border haat with Mizoram soon. I will visit the state next month and in May so that we can open the border haat," Munshi told reporters at a press conference.

There is a possibility of opening a border haat at the Sajek or Degamukh area of Bangladesh, the

commerce minister said, adding that a decision would be taken after visiting the spots.

Munshi also said that Mizoram wants to construct a 666-metre bridge at Borofkol in Rangamati for direct connectivity with Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will also consider constructing the proposed bridge as the country wants more business with the Seven Sister States of India.

There is a 18 to 19-kilometre river route from Mizoram, which connects Bangladesh's Rangamati, Munshi said, adding that Mizoram will use this route to enter Chattogram port.

Bangladesh could immensely benefit from increased trade with Mizoram as this Indian state is a major source for stone, ginger, chilly, bamboo, sugar, cement, banana and teak wood.

On the other hand, Bangladesh is a major source for garments, cosmetics, fish, meat, electronic goods, cooking oil, toiletries and processed food.

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StanChart to celebrate 50yrs of Bangladesh's independence

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Standard Chartered Bangladesh (SCB) has taken a series of financial and cultural initiatives to celebrate the country's 50 years of independence. As a part of the move, the British lender yesterday rolled out a commemorative credit card at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital.

Against every commemorative card activated the bank will donate Tk 500 to Liberation War Museum, said Standard Chartered Bangladesh CEO Naser Ezaz Bijoy.

This will get the cardholder's name registered in the list of the museum's donors.

The cardholders will get the same facilities as those availed by those having Visa platinum credit cards. Clients can now apply for the card, which will be available from the last of week of May.

"With 116 years of uninterrupted presence in Bangladesh, Standard Chartered is the only multinational universal bank in the country with a unique blend of deep-rooted local presence and capacity to capitalise on its global network and product coverage," said Bijoy. The bank was the first to open letters of credit (LCs) on behalf of Bangladesh once independence was achieved, he said. It is also the country's first lender to pioneer the roll out of credit cards, call centres, automated teller machines, collateral-free personal loans and many other banking products, he said.



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Stocks fall as second-wave fear grips investors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks nosedived more than 3 per cent in the last two trading sessions as investors became worried following the sudden surge in Covid-19 infections and death tolls.

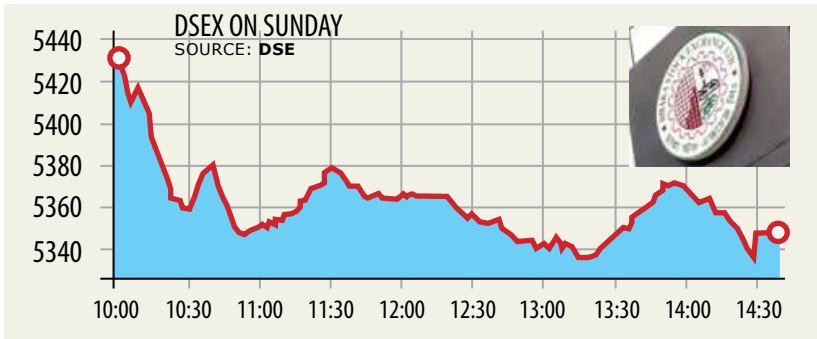
The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), dropped 84 points, or 1.56 per cent, to end the day at 5,349 yesterday. This means, the index shed 166.62 points, or 3.04 per cent in the last two sessions.

Investors fear that the rise in infections might take a toll on the business in the country for the second time in the last one year, said a stock broker.

"Investors are cautious in buying stocks."

There is even an apprehension among the investors that the market might be closed, like the government did nearly a year ago, to limit the spread of the rogue virus.

However, the regulator said that



such a decision had not been taken yet, and the trading would continue if banks remained open.

As most of the listed companies were hard hit in the initial weeks of the lockdown in Bangladesh before restrictions were eased in June, investors are nervous, the broker said.

"If the situation worsens, the market would be impacted again," he added.

Twenty-two people died of Covid-19 infections across the country in the last 24 hours, according to the

Directorate General of Health Services. At least 2,172 people were infected.

"As the number of cases is rising, people are edgy," said Sohel Rana, a stock investor.

In many countries, the second wave of Covid-19 impacted businesses and the stock market seriously, he said.

"As many people across the country don't maintain health protocols, the lax attitude might be more dangerous for us. So, investors are selling," Rana said.

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Banks' online transactions face hiccups

Disrupted for two hours for electricity problem

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Clients faced difficulties to settle inter-bank transaction through different digital modes between 6pm and 8pm on Saturday in the wake of an electrical problem faced by the central bank's National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB).

The electricity failure had occurred from the uninterruptible power supply (UPS), also known as a battery backup, of NPSB that created a roadblock for many clients to settle transactions through ATM, POS and internet banking.

Many clients lodged complaints to their respective banks about the failure of transactions as it was a public holiday when a good number of clients usually spend busy time for shopping, said heads of card of three banks.

In addition, the hours between 6pm and 8pm are considered as pick hours.

"This was an unexpected problem and it had been resolved immediately soon after we noticed it," said a central banker, who is one of the assigned officials in running the NPSB.

NPSB is an electronic platform, which started its operation in December 2012 with a view to attaining interoperability among banks for card-based and online retail transactions.

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