

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 0.68%	▲ 0.78%	\$1,768.59	\$66.76	▼ 1.98%	▼ 0.83%	▼ 0.1%	▼ 0.81%	83.95	99.84	115.07	12.74
5,518.01	9,634.73	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	48,782.36	28,812.63	3,218.27	3,446.86	BUY TK	103.64	118.87	13.39
								SELL TK			



Star BUSINESS

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Exports fetch \$3.13b in April

Receipts up six times year-on-year as shipment fell to historic low last year

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Earnings from merchandise exports surged as much as six times year-on-year to \$3.13 billion in April thanks to a rebound in apparel shipment buoyed by the reopening of the economies in the US and Europe.

Export receipts rose abnormally in April compared to the level in the same month last year, when overseas sales stood at a meagre \$0.52 billion, the lowest in the history of Bangladesh, as a strict lockdown and the closure of factories in Bangladesh due to Covid-19 battered the economy.

Overall exports grew 8.74 per cent year-on-year to \$32.07 billion between July and April, data from the Export Promotion Bureau showed.

In April last year, the earnings from the garment sector, which contributes about 84 per cent to the national exports, was only \$0.37 billion.

Despite the abnormal rise in the shipment in April this year, the earnings were 6.44 per cent below the monthly target of \$3.35 billion.

Between July and April, the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, the receipts from the garment shipment were up 6.24 per cent year-on-year to \$26 billion, showing the resilience of the industry amid the fallouts of Covid-19.

Of the sum, \$13.99 billion came from the shipment of knitwear items, which registered 15.34 per cent year-on-year growth. Earnings



STAR/FILE

In April last year, earnings from the garment sector, which contributes 84 per cent to national export in a year, were only 0.37 billion because of lockdown and shutdown of factories.

from the woven shipment fell 2.71 per cent to \$12 billion.

The shipment of knitwear items is increasing as people are spending more time indoors. Because of the pandemic, the demand for woven garment such as formal shirts and trousers has fallen.

Woven exports declined by more than 10 per cent during most of the months in the last one year. April saw the lowest decline during the period, in an indication that the segment is rebounding thanks to gradual reopening of stores and offices.

Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association, said: "We have not returned to normalcy yet and the rebound of garments items has just begun. We hope the export of apparels to the European markets will get a boost by September."

The export to the US market was performing strongly, he said.

The global consumption of apparels has declined by more than 10 per cent over the last year because of the drastic fall in income of the people because of Covid-19, he said.

"This has affected the prices of garment items significantly although the cost of production has increased because of the higher prices of the raw materials and freight charges."

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Remittances past \$20b in 10 months

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Remittance inflow surpassed the \$20-billion mark in the first 10 months of this fiscal year riding on the relentless efforts of migrant workers to send their hard-earned money home through banking channels.

Between July and April, the Bangladeshi diaspora sent \$20.66 billion, up 39 per cent year-on-year, according to data from the central bank.

For the first time in the country's history, remittance inflow crossed the \$20 billion mark in a single fiscal year, a development that has given a breathing space to the government to absorb the economic shocks deriving from the coronavirus pandemic.

Remittance inflow also increased 89 per cent year-on-year to \$2.06 billion in April as the migrant workers sent a whopping amount of funds ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The inflow usually skyrockets before Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha, the two biggest religious festivals for Muslims, as migrant workers send a hefty amount to their near and dear ones during these periods. The monthly remittance exceeded the \$2-billion mark after four months. The

expats sent \$2.05 billion in December.

The stagnation of hundi, an illegal cross-boundary financial transaction, has largely pushed the country's remittances up in recent months, experts said.

A good number of countries have adopted strict restrictions on movement since the Covid-19 outbreak last year, putting an adverse impact on the operation of the global hundi cartel.

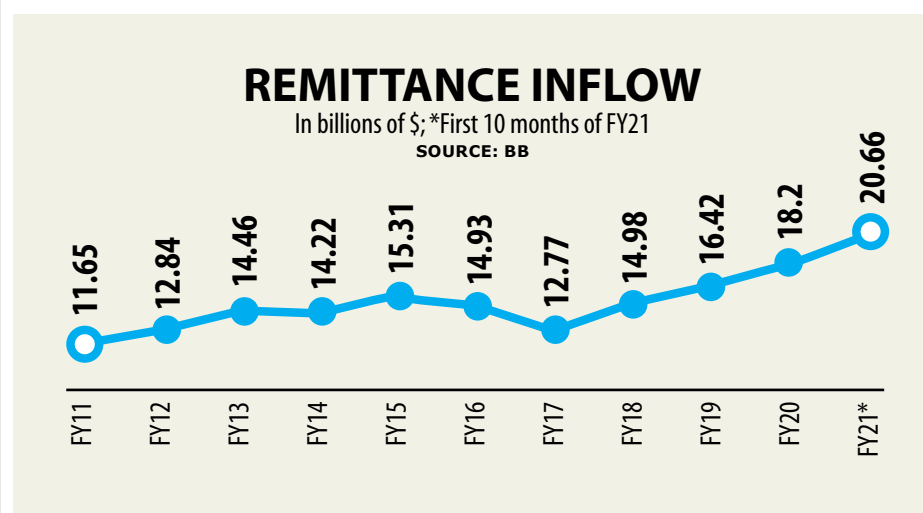
Travelling for different purposes, including medical and education, has almost come to a halt since the last year, dealing a fatal blow to the hundi cartel, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

Remittance may decline once again when the hundi cartel recommence their activities in a full-fledged manner, he said.

In addition, money laundering through imports has been almost brought to an end in recent months, a high official of a commercial bank said, wishing not to be named.

A vested quarter usually dodges taxes by way of under-invoicing while settling imports, he said.

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Beximco profits Tk 77 from each vaccine dose

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Vaccine imports from India contributed to 40 per cent higher profits for Beximco Pharmaceuticals in the past nine months.

The listed drug makers' profits surged by Tk 107 crore, or 40 per cent, year-on-year to Tk 369 crore in the July 2020 to March 2021 period.

Beximco logged a profit of Tk 38 crore against its supply of 50 lakh doses of vaccine to the government, according to the financial report.

So, the drug maker booked profits of around Tk 76.74 from each dose of the vaccine.

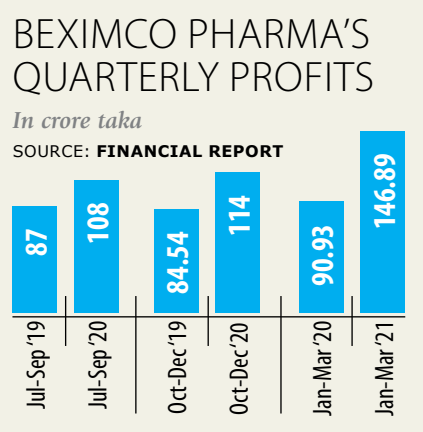
This led to the local drug makers' stock to more than double since its agreement with the government and Serum Institute of India.

On November 5, the trio signed a memorandum of understanding for three crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

When the vaccine was approved for human application a couple of weeks after the agreement, Beximco's stocks started to surge.

Yesterday, stocks of Beximco Pharmaceuticals traded at Tk 192.50, which was Tk 80 in August last year.

As per agreement, the company is to receive fees for the import, storage and delivery of the vaccine to government warehouses across the country, the



company said in the financial report.

A net amount of Tk 38.33 crore after deduction of related expenses from the fees, has been reported as income from vaccine distribution, it said.

This is a non-recurring one off contract and any future earning from this source is dependent on the delivery of the committed quantity of vaccine under the agreement.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals' consolidated revenue rose to Tk 2,176 crore in the three quarters, which was Tk 1,910 crore in the same period of the previous year. Its earnings per share stood at Tk 8.23, which was Tk 5.84.

Business confidence hits rock bottom: survey

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

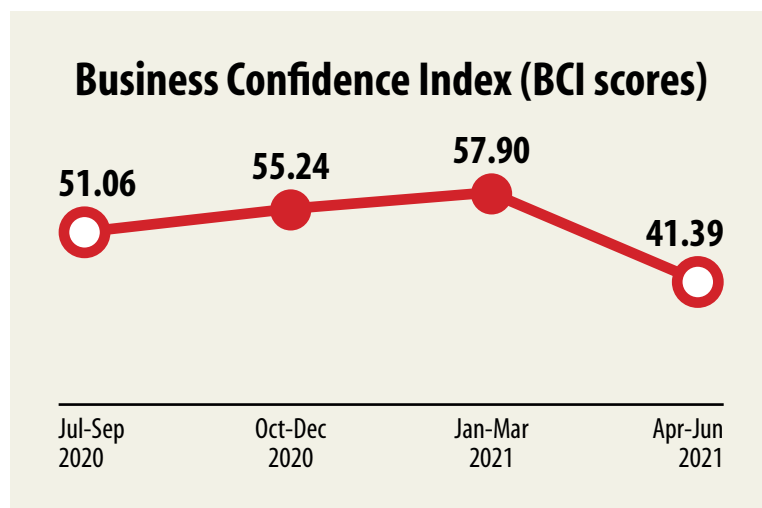
Business confidence in Bangladesh plunged to 41.39 points for the April to June quarter, the lowest level in a year, as an alarming surge in coronavirus infections has deepened uncertainty and threatened the economic recovery, according to a new survey.

A confidence level below 50 reflects a deterioration in the outlook, while a reading above 50 indicates an improvement.

The South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) has been publishing the quarterly Business Confidence Index (BCI) since July last year after surveying firms on profitability, investment, employment, wage, business cost, and sales/exports.

The fourth round of the telephone survey was conducted among 503 firms from April 5 to April 18.

It showed that business confidence declined sharply to 41.39 points on a scale of 100 for the April-June quarter, from 57.90 in the last quarter. This was the first time the reading has fallen below



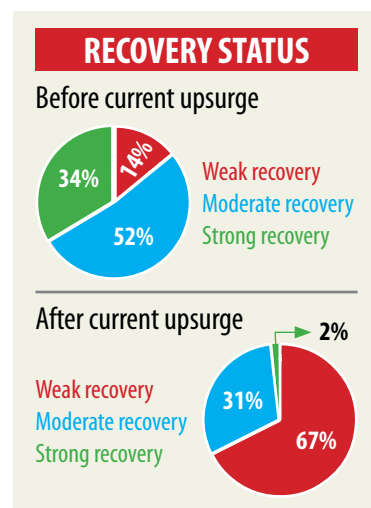
50 since the think-tank began following the business confidence a year ago.

"This round of the survey provides an opportunity for a better understanding of the pulse of the economy and the sustainability of the recovery path as the coronavirus situation has deteriorated," said Selim Raihan, executive director of the Sanem, at a webinar.

According to the survey, 34 per

cent of businesses had expected a strong recovery, 52 per cent moderate recovery, and only 14 per cent weak recovery before the current spike in coronavirus caseloads and deaths from the deadly pathogen.

The firms that had thought there might be a strong recovery fell to only 2 per cent after the situation worsened. Thirty-one per cent of the respondents believe that there



would be a moderate recovery, and a staggering 67 per cent say the recovery would be weak.

"The deterioration is visible in all of the subcomponents of the BCI. This deterioration poses a threat to the future businesses," said Prof Raihan.

Managers or executives of 253 manufacturing firms and 250 service sector firms were interviewed.

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Stock turnover hits 3-month high

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Investors are pouring money into stocks pinning hopes on the higher profit declarations by the listed companies for the latest quarter.

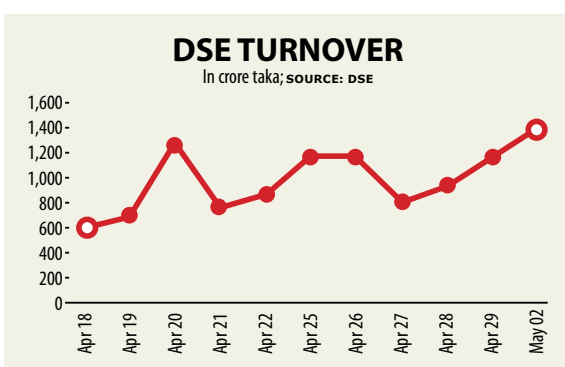
As a result, index and turnover both are rising.

Turnover at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) crossed Tk 1,400 crore yesterday for the first time in the last three months.

The important indicator of the stock market rose 19 per cent from the previous day's Tk 1,172 crore.

DSEX, benchmark index of the DSE, increased 37 points or 0.68 per cent to end the day at 5,517.01.

Investors are hopeful of making higher



profits at the end of 2020-21 as the listed companies are announcing their quarterly reports and most of them booked higher profits, said Sharif Anwar Hossain, president of DSE Brokers' Association.

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Nialco stock subscriptions May 16-20

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stock subscriptions for the country's first-ever small and medium enterprise (SME) to enter the stock market would run between May 16 and 20.

Nialco Alloys has got the market regulator's nod to raise funds from qualified investors.

The subscriptions for shares will start at 10:00am on May 16 and continue till 5:30pm of May 20, the Dhaka Stock Exchange said in a disclosure yesterday.

Eligible investors can use an electronic subscription system under the fixed price method.

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WE MOURN

One of the finest and most dedicated members of our Dhaka Bank Family

Syed Akhlaque Hossain
Executive Vice President (EVP)
& Manager of our Gulshan Circle 2 Branch, has breathed his last and started his journey towards eternity on Friday, April 30, 2021.

He was a pious, hardworking person and above all, a good human being. We pray to The Almighty Allah that He gives strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss and his departed soul be rested in the highest place in Jannah, Ameen.

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