

Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

Shipping crisis chokes external trade

- A consignment of knitwear items – exported by Chattogram-based BLP Warm Fashion to a US buyer in the third week of May – had got stuck at Singapore port, a container transshipment hub, for 21 days because the US-bound mother vessels did not have space. After four failed tries, the shipment that was supposed to be delivered by 19 June, has been finally loaded onboard a vessel and is scheduled to be delivered on 7 July – 18 days later than the original date. Now the exporter might not get its payment on time from the buyer because of this long shipping delay caused by vessel shortages.
- The chairman of the BLP Warm Fashion Limited said mother vessels coming from China and Korea for the US and Europe routes via Port Klang were fully loaded with containers. That is why their containers could not be loaded into the scheduled vessels on time. They have not got their payment from the US buyer as the consignment has not been delivered yet. Besides, they are incurring big losses because of the delay in shipment, he added.
- Like BLP Warm Fashion Limited, for many Bangladeshi shippers it is now a mad rush to secure containers from any available shipping services owing to container and vessel capacity shortages at transshipment ports – Port Klang in Malaysia, and the ports in Singapore and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/shipping-crisis-chokes-external-trade-267583>

Lending through agent banks drops by 79%

- Loan disbursement through agent banking wings of banks dropped by 79.1% or BDT 2.25 billion in April compared with that in the previous month amid the enforcement of countrywide fresh Covid restrictions. According to Bangladesh Bank data, disbursement of loans from the banks' agent banking wings dropped to BDT 597 million in April from BDT 2.85 billion in March. The disbursement of loans through the agent banking wing in March was the second highest after the disbursement of BDT 4.83 billion in loans through agents banking wings in December 2020.
- Bankers said that the fresh imposition of restrictions from April 5 had prompted the businesses, including the small and medium entrepreneurs, to adopt a go-slow approach to taking loans for their enterprises. The banks which have been offering loans through their agent banking wings might have decided to observe the coronavirus situation, they said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/142218/lending-thru-agent-banks-drops-by-79pc>

Nagad fails to comply with licensing conditions for third time

- Nagad, a fast-growing provider of mobile financial services (MFS), has sought an extension of the interim licensing period for the fourth time to complete the process in line with the central bank's requirement. The interim licensing period expires on 30 June. According to the Bangladesh Bank's licensing condition, Nagad will have to transfer the trust cum settlement account to the Bangladesh Post Office from Third Wave Technologies Limited. Trust cum settlement account is a custody account where the legal tender shall be stored against the issuance of e-money by a payment service provider.
- Nagad will send letters containing the signature of the Bangladesh Post Office to respective banks about the account's operations as per the central bank's requirement. But Nagad did not transfer the bank account and could not comply with any of the licensing conditions given by the Bangladesh Bank. As a result, the company has not got the licence even in more than two years of its operation. Nagad is operated by Third Wave Technologies and its customer money is managed in the bank account of Third Wave. It was asked to send statements of the balance of e-money and physical money to the central bank regularly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/nagad-fails-comply-licensing-conditions-third-time-267592>

EPGL hands over JCB 530-70 Telehandlers to Eco Ceramic

- Energypac Power Generation Limited's (EPGL) Construction Machineries and Material Handling division has handed over JCB Telescopic Handler 530-70 to Eco Ceramics Industries Limited at a ceremony recently, says a statement. EPGL is the sole distributor of JCB in Bangladesh. JCB 530-70 is a multipurpose Telehandler that has been engineered to move any material quickly and safely -- enabling bottom line distinction across a host of industries and applications, including RMC, Crusher, Cotton, Ceramic, and many more.
- The equipment can pile with 12 feet maximum reach on 7-metre machines and fuel-efficient to lower recurring costs.

In addition, the handler offers utmost operator safety, stability, and support without compromising maneuverability. JCB 530-70 Telescopic Handler is the world's formidable and most innovative multipurpose machine. Eco Ceramics Industries Limited, a concern of GPH Ispat, is a bricks manufacturing company that uses modern technology to produce hollow and solid blocks. The factory is located on the bank of the Dhaleshwari River.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/epgl-hands-over-jcb-530-70-telehandlers-to-eco-ceramic-1624902405>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$72.69	\$24.17	49.81%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$74.50	\$22.70	43.82%
Gold Spot*	\$1,775.43	(\$119.67)	-6.31%
DSEX	6,026.65	624.58	11.56%
S&P 500	4,290.61	534.54	14.23%
FTSE 100	7,072.97	612.45	9.48%
BSE SENSEX	52,735.59	4,984.26	10.44%
KSE-100	47,002.35	3,246.97	7.42%
CSEALL	7,877.84	1,103.62	16.29%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.82*
GBP 1 = BDT 117.63*
EUR 1 = BDT 101.12*
INR 1 = BDT 1.14*

**Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Sadman Sakib	Research Analyst	sadman.sakib@bracepl.com	01730 727 939
Md. Rafiqul Islam	Research Associate	mrafiqulislam@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md Mahirul Quddus	Research Associate	mmahirul.quddus@bracepl.com	01709 636 546

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	Chief Executive Officer	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Research www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142
 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212
 Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50
 Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52
 E-Mail: research@bracepl.com