EBL ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD.
(A fully owned subsidiary of Eastern Bank Ltd.)

Daily News Snippet
April 09, 2024

Bangladesh Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
DSEX Index	5,860.23
% change	1.11%
DS30 Index	2,033.40
% change	0.92%
DSES Index	1,281.04
% change	1.16%
Turnover (BDT mn)	4,153.24
Turnover (USD mn)	37.76
% change	-4.91%
Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange	

International Market	
Major Indices	**Last closing**
Dow Jones Industrial Average	38,892.80
% change	-0.03%
S&P 500	5,202.39
% change	-0.04%
Nikkei 225	39,540.76
% change	0.49%
FTSE 100	7,943.47
% change	0.40%
Source: Bloomberg	

Exchange rate		
Major Currencies	**Low (BDT)**	**High (BDT)**
USD	110.00	110.00
EUR	119.18	119.22
GBP	138.99	139.04
INR	1.32	1.32
Source: BB		

Money market		
Date	**Call Money Rate Range (%)**	**Weighted Average**
8-Apr-24	8.00 - 9.50	8.71
4-Apr-24	8.00 - 9.50	8.67
Source: BB		

Commodities		
Major Commodities	**Price**	**% Change**
Brent Crude (Oil), USD/bbl.	90.65	0.88%
Gold Spot, USD/t oz.	2,343.84	0.32%
Cotton, USD/lb.	86.62	-1.13%
Source: Bloomberg		

Market Summary

Bangladesh Market

- The leading bourse of the country, DSEX gained 1.11% in the last trading day, closing at 5,860.23 points.
- The daily turnover fell 4.91% in the last trading day.

Global Market

- Majority of the leading global indices posted mixed returns as Dow Jones posted 0.03% loss, S&P 500 posted 0.04% loss, and FTSE 100 posted 0.40% gain.
- One of the leading Asian market indices, NIKKEI 225 posted 0.49% gain.

Key macro indicators

- All the major currencies remained unchanged against BDT yesterday.
- The average overnight rate is rising steadily in the past few weeks as per the latest trend.
- The current weighted average overnight rate stood at 8.71% with a high rate of 9.50% and low rate of 8.00%.
- The oil price rose 0.88% in the last trading day.

Sectoral Update

Banks, NBFIs, and Insurance

Bangladesh Bank goes back to tightening loan classification rules

- The Bangladesh Bank has finally reinstated its loan classification rule of 2012 by cutting the overdue time of a term loan by three months in line with the international practice in response to the condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of a USD 4.7 billion loan package.
- A term loan will be treated as overdue after three months of non-payment from fixed expiry date for repayment, down from existing six months, according to Bangladesh Bank circular.
- Besides, the classification period after the overdue timeframe has been kept unchanged at three months, which means a loan will be treated as default in six months after the fixed expiry date for repayment from existing nine months.
- This is the first phase of the new rule which will come into effect from 30 September 2024.
- In the second phase, the loan will be treated as overdue from the following day of fixed expiry date of repayment from 31 March 2025, which means the account will come under classification in three months of non-payment.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-goes-back-tightening-loan-classification-rules-826041

Telecommunication

BTRC to open fresh audits into GP, Robi

- The telecom regulator has decided to carry out information system audits into Grameenphone and Robi Axiata in the years since 2015 and form committees to start the process of appointing auditors.
- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), at a meeting last month, approved the setting up of two committees in order to hire the audit firms.
- Two tender evaluation committees for the audit process will also be formed, according to the meeting documents.
- The information system audit aims to ensure that the equipment and processes within GP and Robi adhere to the guidelines of the commission.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-open-fresh-audits-gp-robi-3585171

Fuel & Power

No power, gas supply for new factories outside economic zones

- The government will not provide electricity and gas supply to new factories if they are set up in any other places except in government-designated economic zones or industrial enclaves.
- The cabinet committee on economic affairs took the decision at a meeting on March 21.
- The Bangladesh Bank issued a circular to this effect yesterday.

- The central bank also directed banks to ensure mandatory clearance certificates from utility service providers before approving loans.
- In 2020, the energy and mineral resources ministry issued a circular to stop providing new gas connections to industries outside economic zones and industrial parks from April 2021.

News Source:

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-power-gas-supply-new-factories-outside-economic-zones-3585111

Capital Market

Stocks extend gains as investors bet on BSEC boss' reappointment news

- DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), witnessed a notable surge yesterday.
- The bourse indices continued their upward trend for the third consecutive session as cautious investors demonstrated a willingness to buy following a significant correction.
- According to market insiders, the BSEC chairman's reappointment news has a positive effect on investors.
- During the trade session, the DSEX rose 64 points to reach 5,860, while the blue-chip index DS30 saw a gain of 18 points, settling at 2,033 and the DSES Index increased by 15 points to 1,281.

News Source:

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-stocks-surge-early-monday-trading-825426

Now City Bank PLC agreeing merger with weakling BASIC

- Ongoing mergers and acquisitions in Bangladesh's banking sector gets in high gear now that City Bank decides on coupling with the weakened state-run BASIC, according to officials.
- The list of amalgamation in the banking industry is getting longer with the latest decision of merger of the crisis-ridden BASIC Bank with the City Bank PLC, according to officials and bankers.
- The decision on merger comes after a meeting between the high-ups of the privately operated City Bank and the governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB) at the central bank's headquarters on the day.
- And this happens to be the fourth merger event the banking industry is to witness after the central bank, as part of the government's financial-sector reform recipe initiated the amalgamation move to bring discipline in the banking operations.

News Source:

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/now-city-bank-plc-agreeing-merger-with-weakling-basic-1712599167