

## Stock Market & Company

### Margin loan ceiling raised to curb free-fall of share prices

The Financial Express, April 05, 2021

- The stock market regulator on Sunday increased the marginal loan limit for the investors to curb the free-fall of share prices.
- From now on, investors will be able to borrow more than before. The investors will get margin loan ratio of 1:0.80, if the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) stays below 7,000 points, as per the latest decision of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).
- That means, the investors will get a maximum loan of Tk 80, if he/she purchases shares of Tk 100. Earlier, the investors got margin loan of Tk 50 against buying of shares worth Tk 100.
- However, if the main index of DSE exceeds 7,000-mark, the loan limit will come down to 1:0.50 per cent.
- The BSEC took the decision after the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) saw a biggest single-day fall in more than 12 months on Sunday as jittery investors dumped their holdings amid growing tension over impact of the virus-induced lockdown in the country.
- DSEX wiped out by 181 points or 3.44 per cent to settle at 5,088, the largest single-day fall since March 16 last year just ahead of the first lockdown enforced on March 26, 2020 due to Covid-19 scare in the country.
- The DSE also suspended pre-opening and post-closing session from Sunday until further notice. The bourses also cut the trading hours to two hours from existing four and a half hours during lockdown.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/margin-loan-ceiling-raised-to-curb-free-fall-of-share-prices-1617591729>

### Stocks in free fall amid panic-driven sell-offs

The Financial Express, April 04, 2021

- Stocks witnessed a big fall on Sunday as investors dumped their holdings amid fears over the adverse impact of the coronavirus lockdown in the country. The market opened on a free fall which continued until the end of the session as panic gripped investors following the news of countrywide lockdown from Monday to slow the spread of the deadly virus.
- DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), wiped out by 181 points or 3.44 per cent to settle at 5,088. The DSE also suspended pre-opening and post-closing sessions from Sunday until further notice.
- The market witnessed heavy sell-off over the last few sessions as rising Covid-19 cases heightened lockdown fears.
- Meanwhile, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said, the capital market transactions will be coordinated with banking time. The BSEC also urged the investors to refrain from paying heed to any rumour regarding stock market trading.
- The regulator's efforts to tame panic-driven investors done very little to clutch market fall, said a stockbroker. The government decided to enforce a seven-day lockdown from Monday as coronavirus cases and deaths are rising across Bangladesh.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-in-free-fall-amid-panic-driven-sell-offs-1617532658>

### Banks, bourses to operate with shortened working hours

Newage, April 05, 2021

- Banks and stock exchanges will operate with shortened working hours from today as the government has imposed restrictions on public movement and business activities for seven days to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. The Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission issued separate instructions in this regard on Sunday.

- Following the BB's instruction, the BSEC issued an instruction, reducing the trading hours on the country's stock exchanges.
- Trading on the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange will remain open from 10:00am to 12:00pm during the shutdown.
- Sunday's instruction of the BB, however, said that banks would be allowed to keep their branches and head office open till 2:00pm for execution of other tasks.
- The BB asked banks to facilitate all sorts of deposit and withdrawal, issuance and deposit of demand draft or pay orders, treasury challan, government's payments against social safety net programmes, payments of foreign remittance, domestic and interbank fund transfer, encashment or interest payments against NRB bond and different national saving certificates, utility payments and transactions through the BB's payment or clearing systems.
- To facilitate cash deposit and withdrawal by customers of banks having online facility, banks have been asked to keep one branch in two kilometres open based on their own decision.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/134495/banks-bourses-to-operate-with-shortened-working-hours>

## Stocks collapse at opening amid deepening worries

The Financial Express, April 04, 2021

- Stocks tumbled at opening on Sunday as panic gripped investors fearing further fall of share prices riding on the news of a countrywide lockdown to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus.
- The market opened on a steep fall, and DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), eroded by 118.23 points, or 2.24 per cent, to stand at 5,152 points within the first 30 minutes of trading.
- Due to the deteriorating coronavirus situation in the country, the government imposed a seven-day lockdown from tomorrow (Monday). The stockbroker noted that despite the stock market regulator's assurance investor concerns over the market have acted as the primary trigger for the big fall of indices.
- Two other indices also saw a sharp decline till then with DS30 index, comprising blue chips, losing 54.33 points to reach 1,928 points and Shariah Index (DSES) plunging 27 points to stand 1,175 points.
- Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also saw a steep decline at opening with CSE All Share Price Index - CASPI - losing 254 points to stand at 15,001.
- Of the issues traded, 59 declined, 5 gained and 3 remained unchanged with Tk 38 million in turnover.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-collapse-at-opening-amid-deepening-worries-1617513677>

## Economy & Industry

### Sudden 'lockdown' to affect operations management, industrialists say

The Daily Star, April 05, 2021

- Industrialists have found it difficult to instantly implement emergency measures for the smooth continuation of manufacturing operations after the government suddenly announced a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19.
- Corporate offices will be run online while a physical presence will be available on an emergency basis during the seven-day lockdown beginning today. But despite their difficulties, industrialists agree with the government's decision, believing that it would not have too much of an impact on the economy.

- There are 48 manufacturing units operating under MGI, which employs around 35,000 people. The conglomerate's product base ranges from food items such as edible oil to construction materials such as cement.
- The MGI chairman went on to say that some foreign experts working at the Meghna industrial zone have been infected by Covid-19. However, MGI has taken responsibility for their treatment.
- It is not possible for factory owners to construct hospital facilities overnight but they have already taken the appropriate measures in this regard, according to Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- Besides, almost all garment factories have established isolation centres for their workers in the factory premises.
- Regarding transportation, Huq said that restriction on public transport will not have a big impact as most workers live near their factories. Still though, some factories arranged transportation for their workers during the initial outbreak last year and this facility is still continuing now, she added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sudden-lockdown-affect-operations-management-2072237>

## New Covid restrictions to hit recovery of small businesses

The Daily Star, April 05, 2021

- Small businesses, who are yet to recover from the devastating impacts of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic in Bangladesh, are set to receive another blow after the government yesterday directed them to shutter shops to contain the surge in infections.
- In a notification, the government said shops could sell products online. But shop operators say most of them don't have any digital presence and don't know how to sell products digitally.
- Educational institutions, sporting clubs and corporate bodies are the main customers of the crest traders. The sales did not pick up as expected since educational institutions have remained shut for more than a year, and sporting events and socio-cultural programmes are taking place in a limited way.
- The reinstatement of strict measures from today will deal a major blow to the weak recovery, the traders say.
- The number of small wholesale and retail businesses in the country stands at more than 53 lakh, which is 39 per cent of the total business establishments, according to Helal Uddin, president of the Bangladesh Shop Owners Association.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/new-covid-restrictions-hit-recovery-small-businesses-2072305>

## International

### US to support Ukraine

Newage, April 05, 2021

- US president Joe Biden affirmed his 'unwavering support' for Ukraine in a call to president Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday after Kiev accused Moscow of building up military forces on its border.
- The call, which was Biden's first conversation with Zelensky since the US leader's inauguration in January, came after Russia warned the West earlier Friday against sending troops to Ukraine to buttress its ally.
- It also came as tensions between the United States and Russia have hit rock bottom after Biden last month infuriated Moscow by agreeing with a description of his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin as a 'killer'.

- Zelensky, who this week accused Russia of massing troops on Ukraine's border, said in a video released by his office that 'President Biden assured me that Ukraine will never be left alone against Russian aggression.'
- Weeks of renewed frontline clashes have shredded a ceasefire and raised fears of an escalation of the simmering conflict in eastern Ukraine, where government forces are battling Russia-backed separatists.
- On Friday, Russia said its armed forces would hold military exercises close to Ukraine's border in the country's south to practice defence against attack drones.
- More than 50 battalion combat teams comprising 15,000 people will take part in those exercises and practice 'interaction with electronic warfare and air defence units', the defence ministry told reporters.
- British foreign secretary Dominic Raab said on Twitter Friday that he had called his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba to reaffirm 'UK support for Ukraine's sovereignty & territorial integrity'.
- The fighting has claimed more than 13,000 lives since 2014, according to the United Nations.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/134406/us-to-support-ukraine>

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