

Stock Market & Company

Stocks gain for 3rd day

Newage, April 07, 2021

- Dhaka stocks gained for the third day on Wednesday as investors continued buying shares due to the easing of their worries about COVID restrictions. The DSEX added 1.05 per cent, or 55.95 points, to close at 5,337.33 points on Wednesday. The DSEX gained 248.33 points in the last three sessions.
- Before the three-day gain, the DSEX had lost 284 points in three sessions.
- Moreover, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Sunday increased the margin loan ratio to 1:0.8 from 1:0.5 that attracted many investors to the market, they said. The new ratio will be applicable if the DSEX remains below 7,000 points. If the index crosses 7,000 points, the previous ratio, 1:0.5, would come into force.
- The turnover on the DSE increased to Tk 582.52 crore on Wednesday from Tk 508.45 crore in the previous session. DS30, a composition of 30 large capitalised companies, advanced by 1.15 per cent, or 22.92 points, to close at 2,011.19 points on Wednesday.
- Robi, Asia Pacific Insurance, LankaBangla Finance, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Paramount Insurance, Provati Insurance, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, British American Tobacco Company were the other turnover leaders on the day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/134735/stocks-gain-for-3rd-day>

BSEC lifts floor prices of 66 cos

Newage, April 07, 2021

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday withdrew the floor prices of shares of 66 listed companies. The BSEC made the decision at a commission meeting presided over by its chairman Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam, a BSEC press release said.
- The BSEC also issued an order regarding the matter and asked the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges to exempt the 66 companies from the floor price restriction from today. The BSEC at the meeting approved the country's first green bond proposal of Tk 100 crore made by Sajida Foundation.
- The nature of the bond will be unsecured, non-convertible and fully redeemable green zero coupon bond. The bond will be fully redeemable in two years. The face value of each unit of the bond would be Tk 10 lakh.
- Only financial institutions, insurance companies, high net worth individuals and corporate bodies will be allowed to subscribe the bond through private placement. The Foundation will utilise the bond proceeds in micro financing activities along with ensuring environmental development.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/134734/bsec-lifts-floor-prices-of-66-cos>

BSEC approves green bond for first time in Bangladesh

The Financial Express, April 06, 2021

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed a non-governmental organisation to raise Tk 1.0 billion from the capital market by issuing green bonds for the first time in Bangladesh.
- The NGO, SAJIDA Foundation that focuses on improving health outcomes of the poor, aims to use the funds raised through the Green Zero-Coupon Bond to increase the outreach of its microfinance programme as well as ensure environmental development.

- There are very few cases in the world where the company gets special benefits for this. However, in the interest of environmental development, investors are usually satisfied with the lower returns or interest on these bonds than on ordinary bonds of the same quality.
- Asked about the matter, BSEC spokesperson Rezaul Karim said SAJIDA Foundation would spend the money generated from the green bonds on agriculture, sanitation and solar projects.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bsec-approves-green-bond-for-first-time-in-bangladesh-1617810399>

Dutch dev bank invests \$50m in Brac

The Daily Star, April 08, 2021

- Dutch development bank FMO has invested \$50 million in Brac to accelerate innovations that impact the lives of underserved and marginalised people.
- The five-year facility will be fully earmarked to the financing of the microfinance portfolio, confirmed Tushar Bhowmik, chief financial officer at Brac, in a press release issued by Brac yesterday.
- Brac is the market leader for the microfinance sector in Bangladesh with a microfinance loan portfolio of \$3.2 billion serving more than 7.4 million customers, among whom 85 per cent are women, in more than 69,000 villages.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dutch-dev-bank-invests-50m-brac-2073977>

Economy & Industry

Bank deposits grow by 13.5pc in 2020, Islamic banks fare better

Newage, April 07, 2021

- Deposit growth in the country's banking sector was 13.5 per cent in 2020, while the growth rate was 16.67 per cent in Shariah-based banks, according to a Bangladesh Bank report.
- The growth in deposit and lending growth in Islamic Shariah-based banks was better than the overall growth in the country's banking sector in the year 2020. Deposits in Islamic banks increased by Tk 46,694.45 crore to Tk 3,26,922.25 crore at the end of December, 2020 from Tk 2,80,227.80 crore a year ago.
- The BB report also showed that the lending growth in Islamic banks was 11.93 per cent in 2020 compared with 8.14 per cent growth in the overall banking sector in the same period.
- The outstanding lending, known as investments in Shariah-based banks, from Islamic banks grew by Tk 31,341.65 crore in the year 2020 to reach Tk 2,94,093.64 crore at the end of the year under consideration from Tk 2,62,752 crore as of December, 2019.
- With increasing public interest in the Islamic or Shariah-based banking system, the market shares of the Islamic banks against the overall deposits in the banking industry rose to 25.69 per cent at the end of December 2020 from 24.82 per cent a year ago.

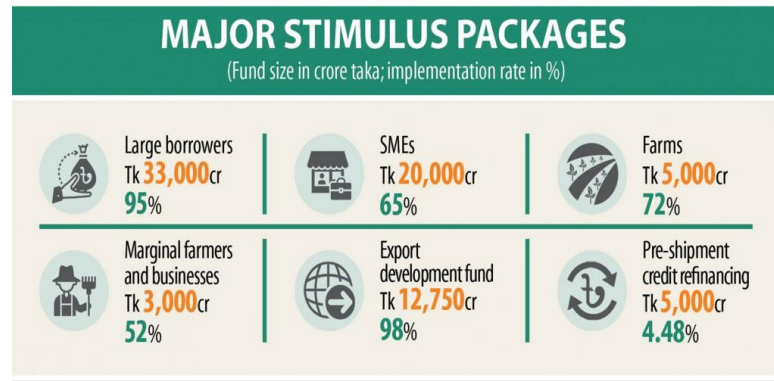
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/134737/bank-deposits-grow-by-135pc-in-2020-islamic-banks-fare-better>

Govt failing to put money where the mouth is

The Daily Star, April 08, 2021

- Key contributors to the economy such as small and medium enterprises, farmers and lower-income professionals had gone through their worst-ever crisis because of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

- But the stimulus packages that were unveiled last year with a promise to help SMEs, farmers, and lower-income professionals make a turnaround have not seen their desired results.
- Banks, however, have shown generosity in extending loans to the large borrowers under the stimulus package of large industrial and service sectors amounting to Tk 40,000 crore.
- Since Covid-19 hit Bangladesh on March 8, the government has announced 23 stimulus packages involving Tk 124,053 crore, which is more than 4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.
- Banks have been given the responsibility to distribute more than Tk 80,000 crore of the packages in the form of soft loans.
- As of March 18, banks disbursed about Tk 13,011 crore among 89,892 borrowers under the stimulus package worth Tk 20,000 crore dedicated to the SME sector, data from the central bank showed.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-failing-put-money-where-the-mouth-2073993>

International

Net zero transition topped agenda in G7 talks

The Financial Express, April 07, 2021

- Top economic policymakers from the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised countries talked on Tuesday about how they will reform their economies to achieve their net zero emissions targets, this year's chair, Britain, said.
- "Finance ministers and central bank governors discussed the key roles of their ministries and central banks in the transition to net zero, and how climate policies complement and amplify the role of the private sector in financing climate action," Britain's finance ministry said in a statement.
- Sunak will on Wednesday call on the Group of Twenty major economies to focus their efforts to tackle climate change and help the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make climate change key to its activities, the finance ministry said.
- On Thursday he will discuss more support for vulnerable countries and a new allocation of the IMF's financial reserves, an internal currency known as special drawing rights (SDRs).
- Last month IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said she would present the IMF's board with a formal proposal for a possible \$650 billion expansion of SDRs by June.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/global/net-zero-transition-topped-agenda-in-g7-talks-1617776197>

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