

Stock Market & Company

Stocks open sharply lower

The Financial Express, April 11, 2021

- Stocks opened sharply lower on Sunday as risk-averse investors dumped their holdings following the strict lockdown news ahead and withdrawal of floor price restriction for 66 issues.
- The market fell sharply as soon as the market opened, and the DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), fell more than 73 points or 1.40 per cent to stand at 5,180 points within the first 30 minutes of trading.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) last week withdrew the floor price for 66 listed companies set a year ago when the market was in free fall amid the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- However, the stock market regulator on Saturday lowered the circuit breaker limit to 2.0 per cent from the existing 10 per cent for 66 companies apparently to prevent the price fall.
- Two other indices also saw sharp decline till then with the DS30 index, comprising blue chips, lost 32.11 points to reach at 1,958 points and the Shariah Index (DSES) plunging 20.13 points to stand at 1,177 points till then.
- Beximco was the most traded stocks till then with its shares worth Tk 142 million changing hands, followed by Robi, BD Finance, Purabi General Insurance and Saif Powertec. Of the issues traded till then 74 declined, 16 gained and 14 remained unchanged with Tk 46 million in turnover.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-open-sharply-lower-1618119962>

Linde Bangladesh declares 400pc cash dividend

The Financial Express, April 11, 2021

- The board of directors of Linde Bangladesh has recommended a 400 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2020. The final approval of the dividend will come during the annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on May 27 at 11:00am through digital platform.
- The multinational company has also reported EPS of Tk 70.55, NAV per share of Tk 355.75 and NOCFPS of Tk 77.70 for the year ended on December 31, 2020 as against Tk 80.93, Tk 335.70 and Tk 102.84 respectively for the same period of the previous year.
- As per the Q1 financial statements, the company's EPS was Tk 18.88 for January-March 2021 as against Tk. 20.36 for January-March 2020. NOCFPS was Tk. 10.88 for January-March 2021 as against Tk. 10.12 for January-March 2020. NAV per share was Tk. 374.63 as on March 31, 2021 and Tk. 355.75 as on March 31, 2020.
- Each share of the company, which was listed on the DSE in 1976, closed at Tk 1,328.20 on Thursday last. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 152.18 million and authorised capital is Tk 200 million, while the total number of securities is 15.21 million.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/linde-bangladesh-declares-400pc-cash-dividend-1618120123>

Eastland Insurance recommends 10pc dividend

The Financial Express, April 11, 2021

- The board of directors of Eastland Insurance Company has recommended 7.0 per cent cash and 3.0 per cent stock dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2020.

- The final approval of the dividend will come during the annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on June 10 at 3:00pm through digital platform. The record date is April 28, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday.
- The company has also reported EPS of Tk 1.12, NAV per share of Tk 21.32 and NOCFPS of Tk 0.85 for the year ended on December 31, 2020 as against Tk 1.38, Tk. 19.98, and Tk 0.75 respectively for the same period of the previous year.
- The company has also informed that bonus share has been declared due to expansion of business by enhancing the company's capital base. The company has a plan to open several numbers of branches at key points of different districts.
- The company's paid-up capital is Tk 814.37 million and authorised capital is Tk 1.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 81.43 million.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/eastland-insurance-recommends-10pc-dividend-1618119406>

Uttara Bank declares 12.5pc cash, 12.5pc stock dividend

The Financial Express, April 11, 2021

- The board of directors of Uttara Bank has recommended 12.50 per cent cash and 12.50 per cent stock dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2020.
- The bank has also reported consolidated EPS of Tk. 4.28, consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 34.79 and consolidated NOCFPS of Tk. 38.53 for the year ended on December 31, 2020 as against Tk. 3.73, Tk. 38.36 and Tk. (14.74) respectively for the same period of the previous year.
- The bank's paid-up capital is Tk 5.01 billion and authorised capital is Tk 10 billion, while the total number of securities is 501.94 million.
- The sponsor-directors own 30.54 per cent stake in the company while the institutional investors own 22.44 per cent, foreign investors 0.26 per cent and the general public 46.76 per cent as on February 28, 2021, the DSE data shows.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/uttara-bank-declares-125pc-cash-125pc-stock-dividend-1618116970>

Baraka Patenga Power approved for IPO

The Business Standard, April 11, 2021

- Institutional investors can buy primary shares of Baraka Patenga Power Limited at Tk32 per share, while the general public will get a 10% discount on the price.
- Baraka Patenga Power Limited has received approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to issue shares at the cut-off price of Tk32 each, in their initial public offering (IPO).
- Institutional investors will buy primary shares of Baraka Patenga Power Limited at Tk32 each while the general public is to get a 10% discount on the price.
- Institutional investors set the cut-off price at a 72-hour bidding held between 22 to 25 February this year. On 5 January, Baraka Patenga received approval from BSEC to explore the price of its primary shares in order to raise Tk225 crore from the market.
- The company will utilise Tk144.34 crore, part of its IPO proceeds, to invest in two of its power generation subsidiaries – Karnaphuli Power Ltd and Baraka Shikalbaha Power Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/baraka-patenga-power-approved-ipo-230269>

Investors to decide SEBL 1st Mutual Fund's conversion on 25 May

The Business Standard, April 12, 2021

- The unitholders of the Southeast Bank 1st Mutual Fund (SEBL1STMF) – a closed-end listed mutual fund – will decide regarding the conversion to open-end or liquidating the fund at a virtual meeting on 25 May 2021.
- The fund will complete its 10-year tenure on 15 May 2021. As per the trustee's decision, the fund's trade on stock exchanges will be suspended on 16 May and the effective date is 17 May.
- The planned conversion will only occur if at least 75% of the unitholders approve the conversion proposal at the meeting. Otherwise, the fund will be liquidated. The fund was listed on the stock exchanges on 16 May 2011 with an initial size of Tk90.7 crore. The fund has so far paid cash dividends amounting to Tk88.8 crore.
- As on 31 December last year, its investment portfolio in the stock market was Tk109.50 crore. Out of the total investment, 51.62% made in only five companies – Brac Bank, Square Pharma, British American Tobacco, Grameen Phone, and Marico.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/investors-decide-sebl-1st-mutual-funds-conversion-25-may-230263>

Economy & Industry

Govt outlines fresh curbs

The Daily Star, April 12, 2021

- All public, private and autonomous offices will remain closed for a week from April 14, says a Cabinet Division proposal aimed at curbing the sharp rise in Covid-19 cases and deaths.
- However, factories of export-oriented industries, including that of readymade garment, will stay open maintaining the health safety guidelines, the proposal mentions.
- Public transport services -- bus, train, launch and regular flights -- and also city bus services that resumed on April 7 amid the ongoing restrictions will remain suspended during the period. Private vehicles will also come under restrictions. Offices providing emergency services and vehicles used for such services will be out of the purview of the fresh restrictions, it says.
- Seventy-eight people died from the virus in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, taking the total number to 9,739. Besides, 5,819 new infections were recorded during the period, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.
- Earlier on April 4, the Cabinet Division issued an 11-point directive with a set of restrictions effective from 6:00am on April 5 to 12:00am on April 11 to contain the spread of Covid. It said violators of the directives would face punishment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/govt-outlines-fresh-curbs-2076061>

Future bright as global economy rebounds

The Business Standard, April 12, 2021

- Despite a difficult struggle against the Covid-19 pandemic, the advanced economies are recovering faster-than-projected pace and successes in vaccination drive put them well ahead of the rest of the world.
- According to the latest projections of the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, where lockdowns are still putting a dent in growth, will grow at 4.4% in 2021, well behind the estimated 6.4% for the US.
- The pandemic cut gross domestic product by 6.6% in the EU and 3.5% in the US last year. China's economy is also recovering fast from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the pace edges the Asian giant closer to the US economy. The US economy is proceeding faster than expected on the back of success in vaccination and a generous \$5 trillion stimulus package.
- About 33.5% of the US population have so far been inoculated, while the rate is 14% in the EU.

- A faster global recovery is a good news for Bangladesh as its external trades account for more than a third of its GDP (36.76% as of 2019).
- Bangladesh's exports saw an impressive 12% growth in March, putting the July-March total figure close to the pre-pandemic level of last year. The growth was driven by strong and steady performance from the knitwear segment, which posted 5.85% growth in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, compared to nearly 11% decline in woven garment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/future-bright-global-economy-rebounds-230368>

International

IMF, World Bank begin push to swap debt relief for green projects

Newage, April 11, 2021

- The idea of forgiving debt held by poor countries in exchange for 'green' investments gained ground this week during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, with concrete proposals expected in time for a global climate summit this fall.
- Low-income countries face a double crisis — they are under pressure to pay down their debt while also confronting environmental problems.
- The Covid-19 crisis has made it significantly harder for developing countries to tackle the rising risks posed by climate change' and environmental disasters, said the spokeswoman, who declined to be named.
- With already tight budgets, these countries have had to use emergency financial assistance to address the severe impact of the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis.
- While there is no timeline yet for announcing concrete measures, all parties involved are clearly pointing toward the COP26 climate summit to be held in November in the Scottish city of Glasgow.
- The IMF and World Bank will also have to consider the plight of several island nations with middle-income economies that receive less economic support but face daunting environmental challenges.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/135108/imf-world-bank-begin-push-to-swap-debt-relief-for-green-projects>

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