

Stock Market & Company

Stocks extend gaining streak despite lockdown

The Financial Express, April 18, 2021

- Stocks extended the gaining streak for the fourth straight session on Sunday despite ongoing countrywide lockdown. The market witnessed high volatility in the first half of the day's session as some investors opted for booking profit on stocks which saw a price surge in the past three trading days. But later half went up steadily.
- DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went up by 21.23 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 5,331 over the previous session. DSEX added more than 166 points in the past four consecutive sessions.
- Two other indices also closed higher with the DSE30 Index, comprising blue chips, advanced 13.43 points to finish at 2,040 and the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) gained 2.46 points to close at 1,211.
- Turnover, a crucial indicator of the market, also rose to Tk 6.02 billion, which was 8.27 per cent higher than the previous day's turnover of Tk 5.56 billion.
- Beximco - the flagship company of Beximco Group- was the most- traded stock with shares worth about Tk 1.11 changing hands, followed by BD Finance (Tk 415 million), BATBC (Tk 394 million), LankaBangla Finance (Tk 392 million) and Robi (Tk 236 million). Prime Insurance was the day's top gainer, posting a 10 per cent gain while Rahima Food Corporation was the worst loser, losing 4.52 per cent.
- The market cap of DSE also rose to Tk 4,632 billion on Sunday, up from Tk 4,627 billion in the previous session. The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also ended marginally higher with the CSE All Share Price Index – CASPI –gaining 34 points to settle at 15,413 and the Selective Categories Index – CSCX advancing 20 points to close at 9,297.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-extend-gaining-streak-despite-lockdown-1618738575>

Unique Power selling stakes to Qatari company

The Daily Star, April 19, 2021

- Unique Meghnaghat Power is going to sell an 11.76 per cent stake to Doha-based power development and investment company Nebras Power Investment Management BV worth \$24.06 million or Tk 206 crore.
- Parent company the Unique Hotel and Resorts made the disclosure through the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday. It said to have already signed a memorandum of understanding with Nebras.
- A total of 14,641 shares would be sold having a face value of Tk 10, informed the company. Nebras develops and manages portfolios of strategic investment in the power sector globally. Its total asset was 7.2 billion Qatari riyals in 2019, according to the company's website. Following the DSE disclosure, stocks of Unique rose 2.8 per cent to Tk 36.50.
- The company has also informed of developing a 584 MW gas/liquefied natural gas-based power plant with Strategic Finance and GE Capital Global Energy Investments BV. The Meghnaghat plant is under construction on 18.75 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$520 million.

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<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/unique-power-selling-stakes-qatari-company-2079889>

Turn some stimulus into grant: FBCCI

The Daily Star, April 18, 2021

- The country's apex trade body yesterday demanded that the government consider giving away a portion of stimulus funds as grants if lockdowns persist in the next quarter, reasoning it was difficult to recover business from the pandemic-induced

losses. The government in April last year announced stimulus packages for banks to disburse low interest loans among industries to aid recovery.

- Till date, the government declared Tk 124,000 crore in funds in its bid to shore up the confidence of entrepreneurs in the wake of global and local economic losses.
- In a proposal for tax and other measures needed for businesses to recover and grow in fiscal 2021-22, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Sheikh Fazle Fahim urged for considering the grants ranging from 5 per cent to 50 per cent.
- The FBCCI president suggested that a 5 per cent grant be provided to large scale industries and for export-oriented sectors while 50 per cent to the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) and agricultural sector. So far, the government announced Tk 30,000 crore in stimulus for large-scale industries, Tk 20,000 crore for CMSMEs, Tk 10,500 crore for export-oriented sectors and Tk 5,000 crore for the agricultural sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/turn-some-stimulus-grant-fbcci-2079885>

Economy & Industry

Govt launches \$7.5m matching grant for producing MPPE

Newage, April 18, 2021

- The commerce ministry, with the support of the World Bank Group, on Sunday launched a fund worth \$7.5 million for entrepreneurs to facilitate production of medical and personal protective equipment.
- In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, the ministry has added the new funding window named the Covid-19 Enterprise Response Fund under the Export Competitiveness for Jobs (EC4J) project.
- The government has arranged the fund for the entrepreneurs to help them seize the opportunities which have already been created for Bangladesh amid the growing challenges in meeting the demand and supply of MPPE products on the local and international markets to fight the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Bangladeshi firms manufacturing MPPE products, including personal protective equipment, diagnostic equipment and clinical care equipment, would get grant support from the \$7.5-million matching grant.
- World Bank country director for Bangladesh Mercy Tembon hoped that the fund would boost production of MPPEs by the local entrepreneurs and increase domestic supply, resulting in increased exports.
- Prime minister's private industry and investment affairs adviser Salman F Rahman said that the CERF would help to build resilience of domestic producers of such MPPE products in the ever-changing world.

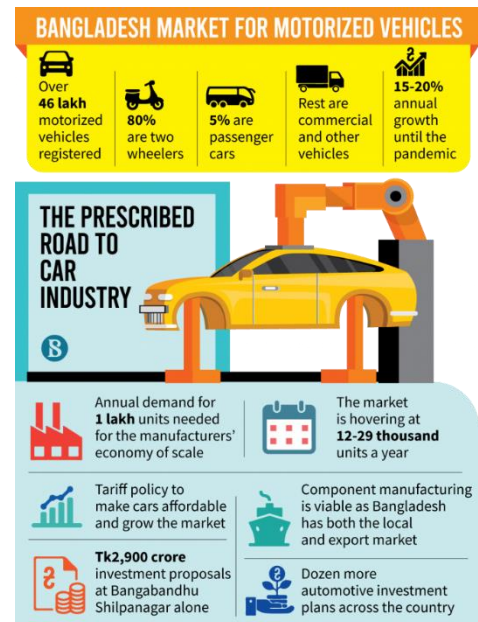
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/135737/govt-launches-75m-matching-grant-for-producing-mppe>

Sun rising for Bangladesh Automotive Industry

The Business Standard, April 18, 2021

- In less than a decade, the two-wheeler market in Bangladesh grew more than three times. During this period the source of supply shifted from the imports to the local manufacturing which accounts for more than 90% of the units sold here annually.
- The government, in collaboration with partner nations, foreign investors and the local private sector, is trying to replicate the motorcycle success story in automobiles which is raising hope for the development of Bangladeshi automobile and automotive industry in coming years.

- Following the Motorcycle Industry Development Policy 2018, the government now is working to finalise the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2020, the draft of which is drawing mixed reaction since that contains a plan to phase out imports of reconditioned vehicles in five years and Bangladesh car market is mostly made of reconditioned Japanese cars due to their perceived reliability and a wide range of models from the top Japanese car brands.
- Bangladeshi company Fair Technologies is planning to set up a local Hyundai car assembling plant. Besides, The Ministry of Industries is in talks with Japanese Mitsubishi Motors for a joint venture car assembly plant like the state-owned Pragati Industries' six decade-old vehicle assembly plant, while more than a dozen plans for automotive investments appeared in media reports in recent years.
- PHP Automobiles is assembling Malaysian Proton branded cars in Chattogram in recent years to offer little more affordability amid the abnormally high tariff existing in the country.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/sun-rising-bangladesh-automotive-industry-233557>

International

Used electronics trading platform Aihuishou to raise up to \$1b in US IPO

The Daily Star, April 19, 2021

- Chinese secondhand electronics trading platform Aihuishou is aiming to raise \$500 million to \$1 billion in a US initial public offering by early June, said two people with direct knowledge. The 10-year-old company, backed by online retailer JD.Com Inc, is targeting a valuation of \$4 billion to \$5 billion in the float, said the people.
- Aihuishou has hired Bank of America and Goldman Sachs to work on the IPO and plans to file around mid-May, said the sources, who declined to be named as the information is confidential. The company and the two banks declined to comment.
- JD.Com disclosed in 2019 it would merge its own Paipai secondhand business into Aihuishou with certain exclusive traffic resources for the next five years, and additionally invest \$20 million in cash in exchange for a non-controlling interest in the company.
- In February, Aihuishou completed a \$200 million pre-IPO fundraising in which JD.Com, its biggest shareholder, also invested, according to one of the people. The company declined to comment on the fundraising.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-business/news/used-electronics-trading-platform-aihuishou-raise-1b-us-ipo-2079841>

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