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Stock Market & Company

Stocks inch up despite investors' selling pressure

The Business Standard, April 19, 2021

- Equity indices of both the stock exchanges moved upwards despite investors' selling pressure to book quick profit during the first hour of the trading session on Monday.
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), rose by 0.23% or 12.64 points to 5,344 till 11 am. Turnover, one of the major indicators, on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) trading floor rose by 8% to Tk273.48 crore during the session.
- Out of the 331 issues traded during the same time frame, DSE had 112 gainers against 125 losers, while prices of 84 scrips remained unchanged due to selling pressure. In the sector-wise performance, bank shares have lost prices ahead of their annual earnings disclosure, while most of the insurance companies have continued their gaining streak for the last several days.
- Meanwhile, the benchmark index CASPI at the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) gained 54 points to 15,459.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stock/stocks-inch-despite-investors-selling-pressure-233737>

Nitol Insurance declares 10pc cash dividend

The Financial Express, April 19, 2021

- The board of directors of Nitol Insurance Company has recommended a 10 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2020.
- The record date is set for May 24, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday. The company has also reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 2.84, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk 27.23 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 1.21 for the year ended on December 31, 2020, as against Tk 3.22, Tk 25.89 and Tk 3.13 respectively for the same period of the previous year.
- The company's paid-up capital is Tk 402.08 million and the authorised capital is Tk 500 million, while the total number of securities is 40.20 million. The sponsor-directors own 35 per cent stake in the company while the institutional investors own 8.09 per cent and the general public 56.91 per cent as on February 28, 2021, the DSE data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/nitol-insurance-declares-10pc-cash-dividend-1618810770>

Share prices of two insurers soaring sans PSI

The Financial Express, April 19, 2021

- The share prices of two non-life insurers --- Desh General Insurance Company and Federal Insurance Company - are soaring without having any undisclosed price sensitive information (PSI).
- Share price of Desh General Insurance continued to rise as its share price jumped 247 per cent or Tk 24.70 each in the past 14 trading days since made trading debut on March 29 this year. The newly listed general insurer's share closed at Tk 34.70 on Sunday, gaining 3.89 per cent further over the previous session.
- The company, however in a knee-jerk response informed the DSE on Sunday that there is no undisclosed material decision/information relating to the company's business operation/profitability for recent unusual price hike of shares of their company.
- Even after being served show-cause notice, the company's share price has not stopped rising, soaring 3.89 per cent further on Sunday, which will hit innocent investors, said an analyst at a leading brokerage firm.
- Desh General Insurance raised Tk 160 million by issuing 16 million ordinary shares at face value of Tk 10 each under the fixed price method to invest in the capital market, fixed deposits and treasury bonds. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 400 million and authorised capital is Tk 1.0 billion, while the total number of securities is 40 million.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/share-prices-of-two-insurers-soaring-sans-psi-1618806201>

Economy & Industry

VAT receipts from big cos grow by 9.17pc in July-March

Newage, April 20, 2021

- Value-added tax collection from large-scale companies witnessed a 9.17-per cent growth in the July-March period of the current fiscal year 2020-2021 despite dismal economic activities amid the Covid-19 outbreak in the country.
- Large taxpayers' unit (LTU-VAT) of the National Board of Revenue managed to collect Tk 36,210 crore in VAT from big companies in July-March of FY21, up Tk 3,040 crore on the same period of FY20.
- In July-March of FY20, VAT collection by the LTU was Tk 33,169 crore. Officials said that VAT collection grew, riding on a higher collection growth from some major sectors, including mobile telephone, pharmaceutical and tobacco, in the period.
- According to data, VAT collection by the LTU, however, fell Tk 10,723 crore short of the Tk 46,933 crore target set for the July-March period. The revenue board set the VAT collection target for the LTU at Tk 67,529 crore for FY21 against the collection of Tk 42,053 crore in FY20.
- The government set a revised VAT collection target at Tk 1.10 lakh crore for the NBR for FY21.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/135853/vat-receipts-from-big-cos-grow-by-917pc-in-july-march>

Conditions to disburse loan from Tk500cr start-up fund

The Business Standard, April 19, 2021

- The Bangladesh Bank has set some conditions that banks have to fulfill in lending money from the Tk500 crore start-up fund of the central bank to create new entrepreneurs.
- The circular said banks with 10 % or less default rate and having no deficit in capital adequacy and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) are eligible to join this refinancing fund of the central bank and will be able to lend the money from it.
- The central bank on 29 March released the policy of the startup fund. According to the policy, apart from the Tk500-crore refinancing fund of the central bank, the banks would set up their own start-up funds with 1% of their operating profit.

- The interest rate on the annual loan will be 4%. The term of the loan is five years. Loan installments have to be repaid only every three months or six intervals. The maximum grace period for loan repayment is one year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/conditions-disburse-loan-tk500cr-start-fund-234079>

International

India to fund capacity boost at Serum Institute

The Daily Star, April 20, 2021

- India is set to accept the Serum Institute of India's (SII) request for a 30 billion rupee (\$400 million) grant to boost its capacity to make the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, a government source with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.
- SII, the world's biggest vaccine maker, sought the funds to increase its monthly capacity to more than 100 million doses by the end of May, from up to 70 million currently.
- The country has administered more than 112 million doses of the shot so far, the highest in the world, despite concerns about some people overseas developing blood clots after receiving the vaccine. The Indian government is in fact struggling to meet demand for the drug from many states as infections spread rapidly.
- India has so far injected 123 million vaccine doses, including nearly 11 million of a domestically developed shot known as Covaxin. The government is also trying to boost output of Covaxin and has also changed rules to fast-track imports of vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/world/news/india-fund-capacity-boost-serum-institute-2080485>

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