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Stock Market & Company

Dhaka bourse recovers ground on selective buying despite Mideast concerns

The Business Standard, Apr 15, 2026

- The capital bourse returned to positive territory today as opportunistic investors stepped in for bargain hunting, seeking undervalued stocks after the previous session's decline.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose by 24 points to close at 5,254, signalling a cautious recovery amidst an evolving global geopolitical landscape.
- Market insiders said while the market displayed resilience, participants remained intently focused on the ongoing developments regarding ceasefire negotiations in the Middle East conflict, which continues to influence broader investor sentiment.
- The day's trading session was characterised by range-bound movement, with active participation on both the buying and selling sides. However, buying momentum ultimately prevailed, leading to a broad-based price appreciation across the majority of the traded scripts, they continued.
- According to the daily market review by EBL Securities, the market's upward trajectory was tempered by cautious selling in certain large-cap stocks, which prevented a more significant rally.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bourse-recovers-ground-selective-buying-despite-mideast-concerns-1412481>

NBFIs dominate DSE's top gainers in March despite market slump

The Business Standard, Apr 15, 2026

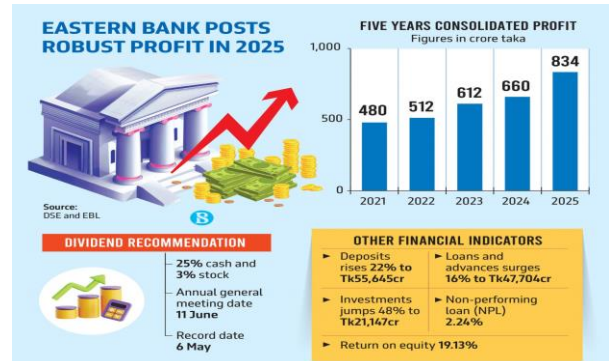
- Despite a broader market downturn amid the Middle East conflict, several fundamentally weak and loss-making stocks – mostly from the non-bank financial institution (NBFi) sector – emerged as the top gainers on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in March.
- According to monthly DSE data, five of the top 10 gainers were NBFIs, led by International Leasing and Financial Services, which surged 100% to close at Tk3.20 per share.
- Premier Leasing and Finance rose 83.33% to Tk3.30, while People's Leasing and Financial Services and Fareast Finance each gained 76.47% to Tk3. FAS Finance and Investment also saw a 70.59% increase to Tk3.90.
- The remaining gainers included textile firms Hamid Fabrics and Familytex (BD), IFIC Bank First Mutual Fund, engineering firm Atlas Bangladesh, and Pacific Denims, reflecting a mix of low-cap and speculative stocks.
- In total, 390 stocks were traded during the month, of which 173 advanced, 183 declined, and 34 remained unchanged, indicating a generally weak market trend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nbfis-dominate-dses-top-gainers-march-despite-market-slump-1412521>

Eastern Bank posts record Tk901cr profit in 2025, rewards shareholders with 28% dividend

The Business Standard, Apr 15, 2026

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has reached a significant milestone in its financial journey, posting a record standalone profit after tax of Tk901 crore for the year 2025.
- This achievement represents a robust 20% year-on-year growth, underscoring the bank's consistent earnings momentum and a resilient business model that has successfully navigated an increasingly challenging operating environment, according to a press release.
- The bank's board of directors, in a meeting held today (15 April), approved the annual audited financial statements and recommended a generous payout for its shareholders.
- The board proposed a 25% cash dividend and a 3% stock dividend for the year ending December 2025, a shift from the previous year's distribution of 17.5% cash and 17.5% stock.
- On a consolidated basis, which includes the performance of its subsidiaries, the bank's net profit after tax reached Tk834 crore, marking an even more impressive growth of 26% compared to the previous year.

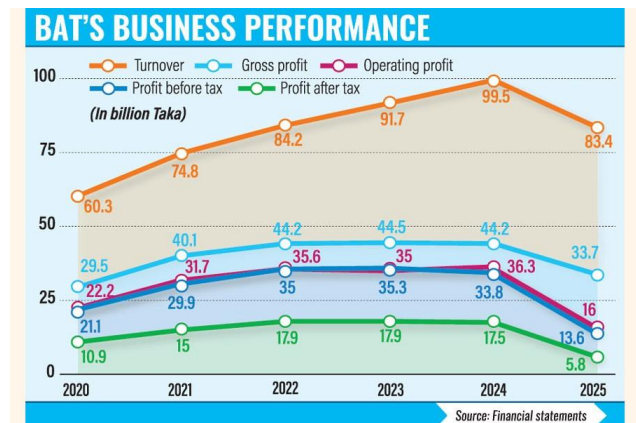


<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/multinational-dividends-plunge-tk4340cr-2025-earnings-take-hit-macro-headwinds>

Excise shock, factory shift drag BATBC profit down 67pc

The Financial Express, Apr 16, 2026

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC) posted a steep 67 per cent year-on-year decline in profit after tax in 2025, hit by a mid-year excise duty hike and a forced factory relocation that drove up one-off costs.
- The company's income plunged to Tk 584 crore in 2025, resulting in earnings per share of Tk 10.81 for 2025, the lowest in at least six years, down from Tk 32.42 the year before.
- The downturn was primarily triggered by an interim budget announced in January 2025, outside the conventional June cycle, which imposed a substantial excise duty increase across all cigarette segments.
- Supplementary duty (SD) on the low segment rose from 76 per cent to 83 per cent, while rates for other segments increased from 81.5 per cent to 83 per cent. Including VAT and the Health Development Surcharge (HDSC), the effective tax burden climbed to roughly 83-84.8 per cent of the maximum retail prices, leaving 16-17 per cent to cover operating costs before a 47.5 per cent corporate tax.
- Consequently, net revenue --excluding VAT-- dropped 16 per cent, despite a nominal 7 per cent rise in gross turnover driven by price adjustments. The higher tax squeezed the company's retained earnings per unit of sale.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/excise-shock-factory-shift-drag-batbc-profit-down-67pc>

Merchant banks risk losing licences over IPO shortfall

The Financial Express, Apr 14, 2026

- Merchant banks will face penalties-including licence cancellation-for having failed to bring at least one IPO proposal every two years, as required by the relevant rules. News Subscription
- They were notified of the regulatory position at a meeting held on Wednesday at the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC)
- "What's the meaning of grabbing a merchant bank licence if a company does not work to bring listing proposals," said BSEC spokesperson Md. Abul Kalam while speaking to The Financial Express after the meeting.
- The regulator issued the warning after conducting groundwork on the IPO-related performance of merchant banks.
- There has been no new listing since the entry of Techno Drugs into the secondary market in March 2024. Hence, all issue managers have theoretically failed to comply with the rules required to retain their licences. Bangladesh Stock Market.

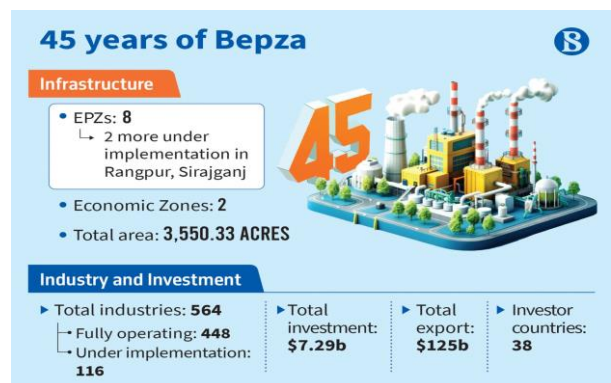
<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/merchant-banks-risk-losing-licences-over-ipo-shortfall>

Economy & Industry

Bepza eyes industrialisation in North, plans new EPZs in Rangpur, Sirajganj

The Business Standard, Apr 16, 2026

- The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) wants to establish two new export processing zones in Rangpur and Sirajganj to increase industrialisation in the north and encourage the use of solar energy, officials announced yesterday as they celebrated the organisation's 46th anniversary.
- Since its inception under the Prime Minister's Office, the organisation has made a substantial contribution to the nation's economic development, and analysts have noted its ongoing influence on social and economic advancement.
- Bepza Executive Chairman Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain said, "Currently, besides eight operational EPZs and two economic zones, new EPZs are being implemented in Jashore and Patuakhali, and EPZs in Rangpur and Sirajganj are in the planning stage. Once implemented, the geographical spread of the country's industrialisation will increase further."
- Sources said 450 acres of land under Rangpur Sugar Mill in the Sahebganj area of Gobindaganj have been already handed over to Bepza for EPZ. It is anticipated that the establishment of an EPZ will provide jobs for more than a lakh people.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bepza-eyes-industrialisation-north-plans-new-epzs-rangpur-sirajganj-1412591>

NBFI depositors cry for payback

The Daily Star, Apr 16, 2026

- AKM Ansar Uddin, a former official of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex), placed his retirement savings of Tk 16 lakh with People's Leasing and Financial Services Limited in the hope of earning a steady return.
- He set aside the money for his three children, especially for the marriages of his two daughters. But when the deposit matured, the company did not return the principal, let alone any interest.
- As his health deteriorated, the elderly depositor was unable to withdraw the funds for treatment. He died in November last year. Amid financial hardship, the family later arranged the daughters' weddings without ceremony.

- Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, his wife, Akhtari Begum, broke down in tears as she described their ordeal. Their youngest son, Anaf Uddin, sat beside her.
- The event was organised by the Alliance of 6 NBFIs Depositors Recovery Committee, which represents depositors of six non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) now under liquidation. The institutions are FAS Finance, Premier Leasing, Fareast Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing and International Leasing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbfi-depositors-cry-payback-4152396>

International

Oil prices flat

The Daily Star, Apr 16, 2026

- Oil prices were little changed on Wednesday as investors assessed prospects for renewed US–Iran talks and the potential for supply to be released from the Middle East, where exports remain constrained by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Brent crude futures were up 43 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$95.22 a barrel at 0821 GMT, after falling 4.6 percent in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 17 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$91.11. The contract dropped 7.9 percent the session before.
- The war has mostly shut the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for crude and refined product flows out of the Gulf to global buyers, particularly in Asia and Europe.
- US President Donald Trump said talks with Tehran on ending the war could resume this week after ending over the weekend without any agreement.
- But the US has also enacted a blockade of shipping leaving Iranian ports that its military said on Wednesday has completely halted trade going in and out of the country by sea.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-prices-flat-4152341>

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BASL Research Team

Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury
Head of Research & Investments tushar@basl-bd.com

Mr. Shohidul Islam
Research Analyst shohidul@basl-bd.com

Mr. Kawser Mohammad Emon
Research Associate emon@basl-bd.com

Supervised by:
Mr. Sumon Das, Chief Executive Officer

BASL Network

Head Office

Hadi Mansion (2nd Floor)
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-02-9515826-28
E-mail: info@basl-bd.com

Dhanmondi Branch

Meher Plaza (1st Floor),
House # 13/A, Road # 05
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1207
Phone: +8802-44611923-24

Mirpur Branch

Nishi Plaza, plot # 01,
Avenue-04, Section-06,
Block-C
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216
Phone: +8802-58055449,
48032449

Uttara Branch

House # 79/A, (4th Floor),
Road # 07, Sector # 04
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-
1230
Phone: +88-02-
48958389,48958371

Banani Branch

Nur Empori, Plot # 77 (1st
Floor), Road No # 11,
Banani,
Dhaka-1213
Phone: +88028836155,
8836849

Nikunja Branch

DSE Tower, Level 10, Room#
200, Nikunja, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +8809666702070

Chattogram Branch

Bank Asia Bhaban (3rd
Floor)
39, Agrabad Commercial
Area
Chattogram-4001
Tel : +8801730338091

Khulna Branch

28, Sir Iqbal Road (1st Floor)
Khulna
Phone: +88-041-731208-9

Bogura Digital Booth

Jamil Shopping Center (3rd
Floor), 288/325 Rangpur
Road,
Bogura City Corporation,
Bogura Sadar, Bogura.

Rajshahi Digital Booth

Chamber Bhabon(2nd
Floor), Station Road , Alok
Moor,
Rajshahi-6100.

For International Trade & Sales, please call at +8801993111666, +880 02 9515826, Ext: 101 at Business hour. For further query, write to us at research@basl-bd.com.