

Key News

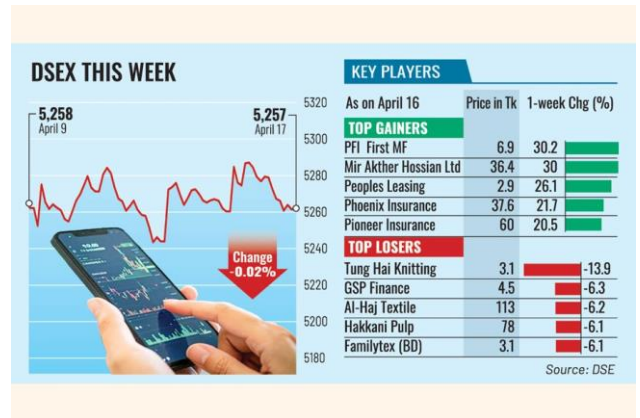
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Stock Market & Company

Stocks end flat as investors await cues

The Financial Express, Apr 18, 2026

- Stocks closed flat this week as investors remained cautious amid lingering uncertainty surrounding ceasefire negotiations between the US and Iran, keeping overall market sentiment subdued.
- Market participants said the bourse is currently in a consolidation phase, as investors lack strong directional conviction due to mixed macroeconomic signals and geopolitical tensions.
- "The market direction will largely hinge on developments in the Middle East, particularly any clarity on the US-Iran ceasefire," said a leading stockbroker.
- He added that investors have become increasingly sensitive to external shocks, especially potential disruptions in energy supply and volatility in global oil prices.
- Despite the cautious sentiment, trading activity reflected a two-sided market. Opportunistic investors engaged in bargain hunting, targeting undervalued stocks, while risk-averse investors continued to offload shares -- particularly large-cap stocks -- keeping the benchmark index largely unchanged.

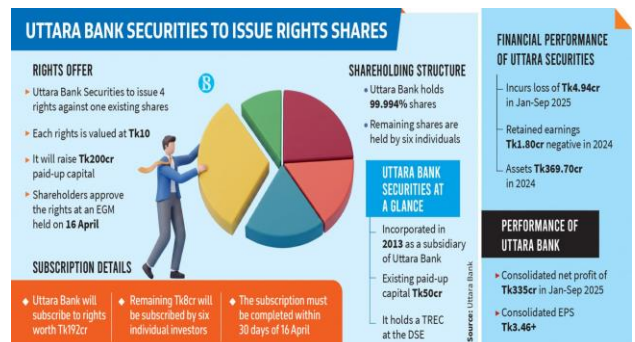


<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/stocks-end-flat-as-investors-await-cues>

Uttara Bank to inject Tk192cr into brokerage subsidiary to strengthen capital base

The Business Standard, Apr 18, 2026

- Uttara Bank PLC has decided to bolster the financial standing of its brokerage subsidiary, Uttara Bank Securities Limited, by investing Tk192 crore through a rights share subscription.
- The decision, aimed at expanding the firm's capital and ensuring smoother operations, comes at a time when the subsidiary is grappling with financial losses and a relatively small capital footprint.



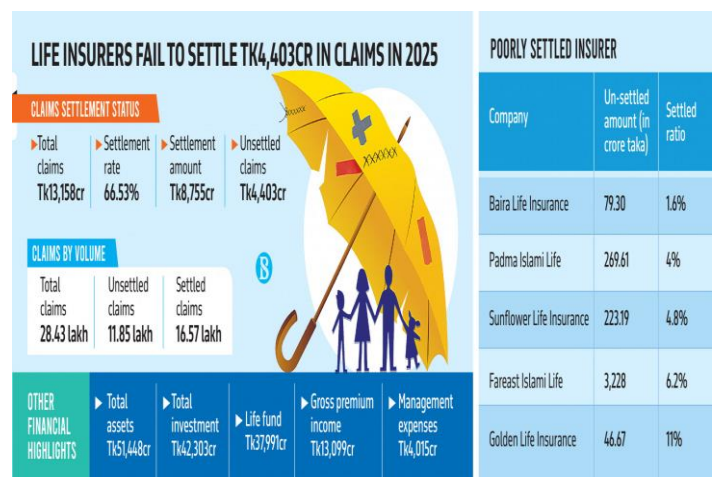
- According to a price-sensitive statement issued by the bank, the investment will be made by subscribing to a rights offer recently approved by the subsidiary's shareholders.
- The rights offer was formally sanctioned during an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Uttara Bank Securities on 16 April. Under the approved terms, the brokerage firm will issue four rights shares for every one existing share held by its investors. Each of these rights shares is valued at its face value of Tk10, with the total initiative set to raise Tk200 crore in fresh paid-up capital.
- The capital injection is structured to reflect the current shareholding pattern of the brokerage firm. While Uttara Bank will provide the lion's share of the funds, amounting to Tk192 crore, the remaining Tk8 crore will be subscribed by six individual investors who hold a minor stake in the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/uttara-bank-inject-tk192cr-brokerage-subsidiary-strengthen-capital-base-1414926>

Life Insurance payouts rise, but lakhs still await claims

The Business Standard, Apr 17, 2026

- Claim settlement in Bangladesh's life insurance sector improved significantly in the final quarter of 2025, yet many policyholders remain unpaid, deepening the sector's persistent crisis of confidence.
- According to unaudited data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra), total claims in the life insurance sector stood at Tk13,158 crore by the end of the October-December quarter.
- Of this, companies managed to settle Tk8,755 crore, leaving Tk4,403 crore in unpaid claims. In percentage terms, the settlement rate rose to 67%, a sharp increase from just 35% in the previous quarter.
- A similar trend is visible in terms of policy numbers. Out of a total of 28.43 lakh matured policies, claims for 16.58 lakh have been settled. However, around 11.85 lakh policyholders are still waiting for payments.
- Industry insiders said increased regulatory pressure and closer monitoring by the authorities played a key role to the higher settlement rate in the final quarter. As companies approached the year-end, the need for licence renewal also pushed them to settle claims. Besides, higher business volumes during this period improved liquidity, enabling insurers to pay more claims.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/life-insurance-payouts-rise-lakhs-still-await-claims-1413366>

Two non-life insurers declare cash dividends for FY25

The Business Standard, Apr 18, 2026

- Two listed non-life insurance companies – Bangladesh National Insurance Company and Central Insurance Company have declared cash dividends for the year ended 31 December 2025, as both firms posted earnings growth alongside contrasting cash flow performances.
- Bangladesh National Insurance Company has recommended a 22% cash dividend for the period. The insurer will hold its annual general meeting (AGM) on 23 June 2026 through a digital platform, while the record date has been set for 13 May 2026.
- The company's share price on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) declined 1.66% to Tk70.90 on Thursday.

- Despite the market dip, the insurer posted stronger financial results in 2025. Its earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk4.81 from Tk4.19 a year earlier, while net asset value (NAV) per share increased to Tk31.26 from Tk28.45, indicating improved profitability and asset growth.
- However, net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) fell sharply to Tk4.10 from Tk6.71 in 2024, signalling weaker cash generation from core operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-non-life-insurers-declare-cash-dividends-fy25-1414916>

DBA signs MoU with Japan's JSDA to boost capital market development

The Business Standard, Apr 18, 2026

- The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA) to enhance cooperation and support the sustainable development of Bangladesh's capital market.
- The agreement, signed virtually on Thursday (16 April), aims to improve market efficiency, strengthen governance, and promote international collaboration.
- The DBA represents brokerage firms operating under the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), while JSDA functions as a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) and a key representative of Japan's securities industry.
- According to its website, JSDA has around 500 member institutions, including securities firms, banks, and other financial entities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dba-signs-mou-japans-jsda-boost-capital-market-development-1414911>

Economy & Industry

BGMEA seeks policy support amid global challenges

The Business Standard, Apr 17, 2026

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on Wednesday sought policy support from the government to help sustain the competitiveness of the country's apparel sector amid mounting global economic challenges.
- In a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir at the Secretariat in Dhaka, a BGMEA delegation led by its president Mahmud Hasan Khan placed a series of proposals, according to a statement.
- The apparel apex body called for simplifying import and bonded warehouse policies, particularly to facilitate raw material imports under Free of Cost (FOC) arrangements.
- It also urged amendments to relevant provisions in the Import Policy (2024-2027).
- Among other demands, BGMEA sought withdrawal of the existing 10 per cent income tax deduction on cash incentives to boost garment exports.
- It also called for steps to normalise trade relations with India and remove barriers to yarn imports and exports through land ports.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bgmea-seeks-policy-support-amid-global-challenges>

Govt confident of securing last IMF loan tranche: Khosru

The Financial Express, Apr 19, 2026

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has dismissed speculation that disbursement of the final International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan tranche has been stalled, stressing that constructive discussions are on. Speaking on the

sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, he said negotiations are progressing positively, with both sides working to resolve outstanding issues ahead of the next programme review.

- He described the ongoing negotiations as a "work in progress" with no negative yet.
- Speaking to journalists on Friday after a meeting with senior IMF officials, the minister addressed recent media reports suggesting that the multilateral lender had "blocked" an upcoming instalment under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).
- "Those who have written negatively about the loan must provide their own answers. No such discussion took place, nor have we reached a stage where an instalment is being blocked," the minister said, maintaining that the government remains confident of securing the remaining funds.
- He described his meetings with the World Bank President and IMF officials as "highly positive", asserting that the lenders' objectives are broadly aligned with the economic pledges made in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) election manifesto.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-confident-of-securing-last-imf-loan-tranche-khosru>

International

US buyers redirect imported fertiliser overseas

The Daily Star, Apr 19, 2026

- US fertilizer buyers are redirecting shipments out of the country, as higher overseas prices give them an incentive to divert critical supplies, a fertilizer analyst said.
- Barges of imported urea nitrogen fertilizer were purchased this week at the Port of New Orleans for export overseas, said Josh Linville, vice president for fertilizer at financial services firm StoneX.
- "We saw a lot of physical barges that were being traded. They were linked to exports," Linville said, adding, "It is feasible to buy barges on the Mississippi River, reload them on a vessel, and ship them out."
- Since the US and Israel launched a war with Iran, nitrogen fertilizer prices have soared, with more than 30 percent of global exports caught in Iran's near closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The US and Israel said on Friday the waterway had fully reopened after Israel's ceasefire with Lebanon, sending oil prices down.
- But while global fertilizer prices have soared, US prices at New Orleans have remained about \$170 per short ton cheaper, providing buyers an opportunity to profit from the price difference.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-buyers-redirect-imported-fertiliser-overseas-4154681>

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About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

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