BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

September 01, 2026

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Key News

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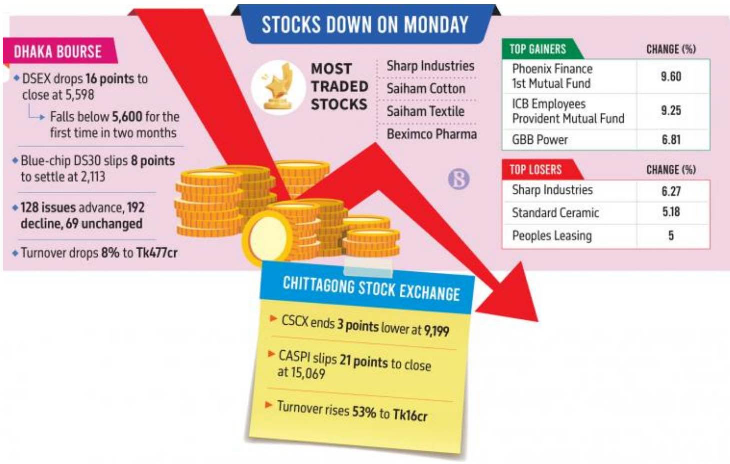
Stock Market & Company

Investors' confidence melts down as DSEX loses 306 points in 13 sessions

The Business Standard, Aug 31, 2026



- Investor confidence in Bangladesh's stock market is weakening as persistent selling pressure, weak fresh fund inflows and concerns over the economic outlook continue to weigh on market activity.
- The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), fell another 16 points today (31 August) to close at 5,598, taking its total loss to 306 points, or nearly 5%, in just 13 trading sessions. The index also slipped below the 5,600-mark for the first time in around two months.
- According to EBL Securities' daily market commentary, the downbeat capital market extended its negative trajectory despite brief recovery attempts by bargain hunters. Persistent domestic headwinds and a lack of fresh positive catalysts continued to weigh on investor sentiment.
- Although the market staged intermittent recovery attempts, the indices failed to sustain the momentum as selling pressure regained dominance in the latter half of the session, reflecting weak investor conviction across the market, the brokerage said.
- Trading activity has also plunged. Daily turnover on the DSE fell 61%, or Tk734 crore, over the past 18 trading sessions, from Tk1,211 crore on 4 August to Tk477 crore today.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/investors-confidence-melts-down-dsex-loses-306-points-13-sessions-1529801

Mercantile Bank sponsor to gift 1.95cr shares worth Tk13.65cr to three children

The Business Standard, Aug 31, 2026

- Nasiruddin Choudhury, a sponsor of Mercantile Bank PLC, has announced plans to gift 1.95 crore shares worth about Tk13.65 crore to his son and two daughters.
- According to a regulatory filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday, the shares will be distributed equally among his three children, who are all general shareholders of the bank.
- His son Faris Nasir Choudhury and daughters Orthee Fariah Choudhury and Ovee Farah Choudhury will each receive 65 lakh shares.

- The transfer will be executed off-market within 30 working days from 25 August 2026.
- Following the disclosure, Mercantile Bank's share price remained unchanged at Tk7 on the DSE. At the current market price, the shares are valued at about Tk13.65 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mercantile-bank-sponsor-gift-195cr-shares-worth-tk1365cr-three-children-1529796

BSEC promises T+1 settlement, AI surveillance, fundamental listing

The Business Standard, Aug 31, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has unveiled an ambitious roadmap to rescue the country's capital market from a decade of stagnation, promising to dismantle the "analog" hurdles of the "paper age" and transition into a technology-driven institutional powerhouse.
- Speaking at an open discussion titled "The Current State of the Bangladesh Capital Market and Way Forward", organised by the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) at DSE Tower today (31 August), BSEC Chairman Masud Khan outlined a "Mega Plan" featuring digital share trading, T+1 settlement, AI-powered surveillance and mandatory market participation for large companies.
- He identified the "IPO drought", liquidity crunch and lack of investor confidence as the major challenges facing the market, and said the regulator aims to shift it from a "retail-dominated, rumor-based" environment to one driven by professional analysis and valuation.
- Masud, who has 46 years of corporate leadership experience, said the current government is perhaps the most market-friendly in Bangladesh's history. He cited the FY2026-27 budget's market-oriented measures, particularly the treatment of the 15% tax on individual dividend income as a "final tax liability".
- He said such structural changes are needed to encourage informed investment rather than herd behaviour.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-promises-t1-settlement-ai-surveillance-fundamental-listing-1529766

BSEC to make listing mandatory for ‘public interest firms’

The Daily Star, Aug 31, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is planning to frame a regulation to bring certain “public interest companies” to the stock market under the Securities Act, said its Chairman Masud Khan yesterday.
- He made the remarks as chief guest at an open discussion on the current state of the capital market, organised by the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) at the DSE’s multipurpose hall in Dhaka.
- Under the Securities Act, the stock market regulator has the authority to direct any company to list in the public interest, Masud said.He said the commission now plans to define what qualifies as a “public interest company” and frame rules under the existing provision. “Those companies falling under certain categories will have to apply.”
- The move is aimed at bringing eligible companies to the market rather than relying solely on voluntary listing decisions, according to the BSEC chief.
- He said the commission expects direct listing, a revamped initial public offering (IPO) process and a hybrid listing mechanism to encourage more good companies to get listed.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-make-listing-mandatory-public-interest-firms-4261541

Economy & Industry

Bashundhara Multi Steel in limbo as eligibility dispute stalls Tk1,765cr financing

The Business Standard, Sep 01, 2026

- A financing dispute has put a steel project initially estimated at Tk4,146 crore in the Mirsarai Special Economic Zone in limbo, with Tk1,765 crore of an approved loan still undisbursed and around 275 containers of machinery stranded at Chattogram Port.
- Bashundhara Multi Steel Industries Ltd was established in 2021 to develop the 12.5-lakh-tonne-a-year plant. The plant was originally scheduled to begin commercial production in July 2025, but it has yet to start operations.
- Only Tk540 crore of a Tk2,305 crore syndicated loan approved by eight commercial banks has been disbursed so far, according to company officials.
- The remaining Tk1,765 crore has yet to be released, making it difficult for the company to complete construction, clear imported capital machinery and keep the project on schedule, they said.
- The company has estimated that the delay has sharply increased the project's cost by nearly 72% since 2021. The impasse centres on whether Safwan Bashundhara Global, the project's sponsor, should be treated as a separate corporate entity from Bashundhara Group for lending purposes.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bashundhara-multi-steel-limbo-eligibility-dispute-stalls-tk1765cr-financing-1529916

Bangladesh to get slight tariff edge over China, Vietnam in US

The Daily Star, Sep 31, 2026

- Bangladesh will get a small benefit in garment exports to the US as its effective final tariff rate is slightly lower than those faced by China and Vietnam, two major competitors in the global apparel supply chain.
- The US on July 24 imposed a new 10 percent duty on exports from Bangladesh to the American market, citing imports of goods produced with forced labour. With that, the country's effective tariff rate now stands at 25.6 percent.
- Meanwhile, China currently faces an effective tariff of 35.6 percent on garment exports to the US, including the 7.5 percent surcharge imposed in 2020, while Vietnam faces a rate of 28.1 percent.
- An effective tariff rate is the overall import duty after taking into account all applicable US tariffs and surcharges on a product.
- India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Cambodia face the same 25.6 percent duty as Bangladesh, according to data from the Tariffs Tool, a resource for estimating US import duties and understanding the tariff landscape.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-get-slight-tariff-edge-over-china-vietnam-us-4261556

International

China's factory activity slides for second straight month

The Daily Star, Aug 31, 2026

- Factory activity in China contracted in August for a second straight month, official data showed Monday, as soft demand weighs on the world's second-largest economy.
- Leaders in Beijing are seeking to maintain pace despite hurdles including trade frictions with Washington and an entrenched property-sector crisis that has spooked consumers.
- The manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) came in at 49.8 in August, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, slightly below the 50 mark separating expansion from contraction.
- Still, the reading was higher than the 49.5 forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists, and an improvement on the 49.2 recorded in July.
- NBS statistician Huo Lihui said in a statement it showed an "expansion in both production and market demand in the manufacturing sector". Certain sectors saw "weak market activity", Huo added, including steel production and chemical materials.
- The non-manufacturing PMI, which measures activity in other areas including services and construction, came in at 49.0, the data showed.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chinas-factory-activity-slides-second-straight-month-4260996

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