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Stock Market & Company

Seven banks dropped from CSE50 benchmark index

The Business Standard, Sep 30, 2026

- Seven listed banks have been excluded from the CSE50 benchmark index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) following its regular biannual review and rebalancing.
- The changes will take effect on 11 October 2026, according to a press release issued by the port city bourse.
- The CSE dropped Al-Arafah Islami Bank, IFIC Bank, Islami Bank, Mercantile Bank, ONE Bank, The Premier Bank and United Commercial Bank from the CSE50 index following a comprehensive review of the performance of listed companies.
- To replace the outgoing entities, seven new companies across diverse sectors were inducted into the index. The newly included scrips are BSRM Steels, Berger Paints, Dhaka Bank, Fine Foods, Heidelberg Materials, Taufika Foods and Lovello, and The Ibn Sina Pharmaceuticals.
- Reviewed twice a year based on six-month performance data ending in June and December, the CSE50 index is designed to serve as an official benchmark for the country's capital market. It measures the performance of 50 leading and liquid stocks across various sectors, excluding corporate bonds, mutual funds, and 'Z' category companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/seven-banks-dropped-cse50-index-bi-annual-review-1558901>

ICB at 50: State investment bank charts recovery plan to tackle crisis

The Business Standard, Sep 30, 2026

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), once a pillar of industrial financing and a pioneer of the country's mutual fund industry, is preparing a multi-phase recovery plan to overcome its mounting debt and financial losses.
- The state-owned investment bank, which marks its 50th anniversary today, has drafted short-, medium- and long-term measures aimed at easing its liquidity pressure, restructuring debt and rebuilding its financial strength.
- The roadmap is expected to be unveiled at a golden jubilee event today, which Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, senior government officials and capital market regulators are scheduled to attend.
- ICB, once a profitable institution and contributor to the government exchequer, has turned loss-making amid prolonged capital market volatility. Falling capital gains and dividend income, coupled with rising debt-servicing costs, have sharply weakened its finances.
- Its accumulated loss stood at Tk1,608 crore as of March 2026, including a record loss of Tk1,213 crore in FY25 and a further Tk588 crore loss in the first nine months of FY26, according to its financial statements.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-50-state-investment-bank-charts-recovery-plan-tackle-crisis-1559051>

Fake IDRA circulars leave insurers, customers confused

The Business Standard, Sep 30, 2026

- Insurance companies, customers and investors are facing confusion over fake circulars being circulated on social media using the name of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA).
- The issue has also raised concerns in the stock market, as 58 insurance companies regulated by IDRA are listed there.
- Recently, IDRA identified a circular circulated on social media in its name as "completely fake, baseless and untrue". The regulator said it had neither issued the circular nor had any involvement with the document.
- The regulator is also preparing to file a general diary (GD) with Motijheel Police Station over the misuse of its name, according to sources familiar with the matter.
- Another fake circular was recently circulated claiming that several non-life insurance companies had submitted an application to IDRA.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/fake-idra-circulars-leave-insurers-customers-confused-1559016>

Phased implementation stressed for proposed BSEC governance framework

The Business Standard, Sep 30, 2026

- Market experts, regulators, academics and corporate leaders have called for a phased and practical implementation of the proposed BSEC Corporate Governance Rules 2026, saying board oversight must remain realistic while strengthening investor confidence in Bangladesh's capital market.
- They made the call at a roundtable titled "Strengthening Corporate Governance in Bangladesh", organised by SMAC Advisory Services Limited at a city hotel on Tuesday. Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Commissioner Hossain Sadat attended as the guest of honour and discussed the draft Corporate Governance Framework 2026.
- Opening the session, Snehasish Barua, managing director of SMAC Advisory Services, highlighted the importance of independent directors, accountability and transparency in creating long-term corporate value.
- Presenting a comparison of regional governance frameworks, Zareen Mahmud Hosein, director of SMAC Advisory, recommended a phased rollout, clearer definitions and valuation guidelines for related-party transactions (RPTs), proportionate risk oversight, and a roadmap for ESG reporting aligned with IFRS S1 and S2 standards.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/experts-call-practical-phased-rollout-bsec-governance-rules-1558731>

ACI to invest anew in beverage business, form new venture with Japanese firm

The Financial Express, Sep 30, 2026

- Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) has approved an additional equity investment of Tk 600 million in ACI CO-RO Bangladesh, its existing joint venture with Danish beverage maker CO-RO, to expand its presence in the beverage market.
- The ACI board also approved the formation of a new joint venture with Japan-based Ichinen Holdings Co Ltd, marking the company's planned expansion into motorcycle financing, skilled manpower placement and the export of agricultural products to Japan.
- The decisions, taken at a board meeting on Monday, were disclosed through separate regulatory filings on Tuesday.
- ACI CO-RO was established in 2019 as a greenfield joint venture to manufacture fruit-based beverages in Bangladesh under CO-RO's brands and in conformity with CO-RO's quality standards.
- The joint venture inaugurated its first state-of-the-art fruit drink factory in Narayanganj in February 2024 with a \$20 million investment. The additional investment is aimed at supporting the venture's expansion as consumer demand for convenient and quality drinks evolves, according to the company.

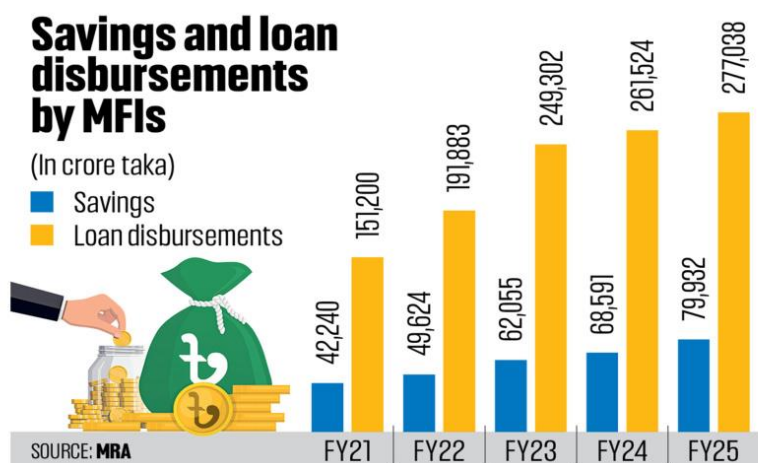
<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/aci-to-invest-anew-in-beverage-business-form-new-venture-with-japanese-firm>

Economy & Industry

Tax on microsavings interest worries MFIs

The Daily Star, Sep 30, 2026

- A move by field offices of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to collect tax on interest earned from microsavings has raised concerns among microfinance institutions (MFIs), which say the measure could discourage poor people from saving.
- Several income tax field offices have recently asked a number of MFIs to deduct and deposit 10 percent tax on interest paid to micro savers. They have also suggested that the MFIs pay a 2 percent fine for failing to deduct the tax, citing the Income Tax Act 2023.
- The issue affects a large number of low-income savers. As of June 2025, nearly 700 MFIs licensed by the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) were operating with about 4.40 crore members. Around 90 percent of their members were women, according to MRA data.
- At the time, the MFIs had total outstanding loans of Tk 1,74,880 crore and savings of Tk 79,932 crore.
- According to the Credit and Development Forum (CDF), an association and not-for-profit umbrella organisation of MFIs in Bangladesh, the institutions paid Tk 4,795 crore in interest to depositors.

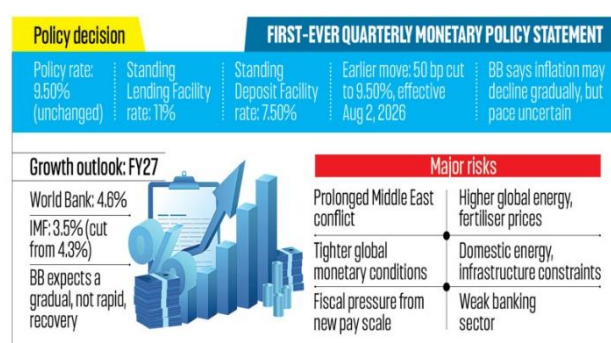


<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tax-microsavings-interest-worries-mfis-4287326>

BB holds policy rate on inflation risks, weak economy

The Daily Star, Sep 30, 2026

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has kept its main interest rate unchanged at 9.5 percent for the October-December quarter, saying inflation risks ahead are still large and the economy is weak.
- The risks include higher global energy prices, the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the recent fuel price hike and partial implementation of the new pay scale for public employees.
- In its monetary policy statement yesterday, the central bank said it would wait and watch before cutting rates again. The BB lowered the policy rate by half a percentage point to 9.5 percent on August 2.
- The Standing Lending Facility (SLF) rate stays at 11 percent, while the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate stands at 7.5 percent, as per the monetary policy statement.
- This was the BB's first quarterly policy statement. Previously, the central bank announced its monetary policy statement for six months at a time.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-holds-policy-rate-inflation-risks-weak-economy-4287336>

International

Oil gains after Trump denies he is willing to ease sanctions on Iran

The Daily Star, Sep 30, 2026

- Oil prices rose on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump denied he would be willing to ease sanctions on Iran while Qatar pushed for peace talks, after falling in the previous session on a recovery in crude supply from the Middle East.
- The Brent futures November contract, which is expiring on Wednesday, rose 71 cents, or 0.69 percent, to \$103.30 a barrel by 0408 GMT.
- The more active December contract rose 35 cents to \$96.51.
- US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 43 cents, or 0.48 percent, to \$89.81.
- Brent is headed for a monthly gain of around 14 percent, its biggest climb since July, while WTI is on track for a 4 percent rise after having breached \$106 for the first time since May.
- The spread between the two benchmarks this month also expanded to its widest in four months as traders watched potential plans by the US to restrict diesel exports, which could create an oversupply in the domestic market and lead US refiners to process less crude.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-gains-after-trump-denies-he-willing-ease-sanctions-iran-4286761>

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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).

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 Bhaban(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.