

Key News

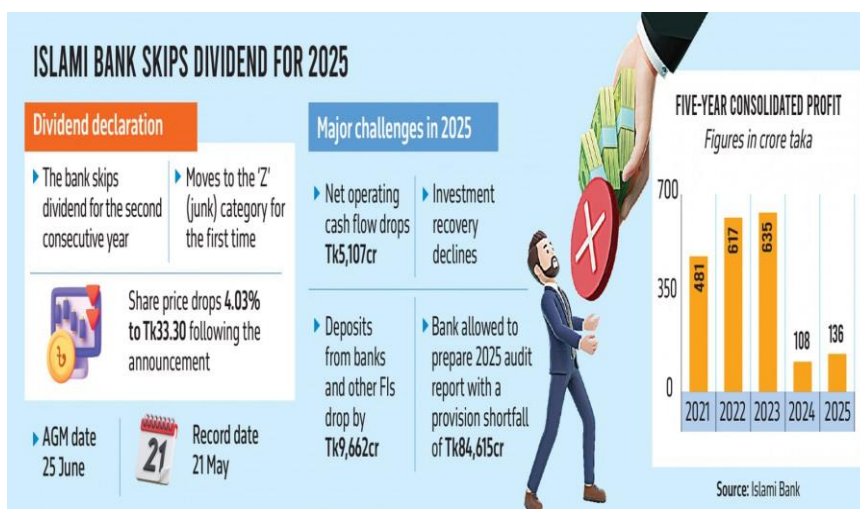
[Islami Bank posts Tk136cr profit despite Tk84,615cr provision shortfall](#)
[Renata drives Q3 earnings growth on debt overhaul, cost discipline](#)
[Weak companies lead market gains amid speculative trading surge](#)
[United Power profit falls 35pc on lower sales, higher finance costs-](#)
[Eastern Housing profit up 6.4pc](#)
[Ctg RMG factories hit by nearly half-shift load shedding; costs rise 20%](#)
[Reconditioned vehicle importers seek duty cuts for hybrid cars](#)
[Why the oil price surge threatens a US recession](#)

Stock Market & Company

Islami Bank posts Tk136cr profit despite Tk84,615cr provision shortfall

The Business Standard, May 03, 2026

- Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC has posted a consolidated profit of Tk136 crore for the year ended December 2025, but the earnings were overshadowed by a staggering Tk84,615 crore provision shortfall against its classified investments, highlighting continued strain in its balance sheet.
- Despite the profit, the bank's financial health remains under pressure, according to a price-sensitive disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- The lender's result was largely supported by a regulatory deferral facility from Bangladesh Bank, which allowed the provision gap to be spread over 20 years under a recovery plan submitted last October.
- However, key indicators point to weakening fundamentals. Net operating cash flow dropped by Tk5,107 crore in 2025, while investment recovery slowed. Deposits from banks and financial institutions also declined by Tk9,662 crore, reflecting liquidity pressure.
- The bank's earnings trajectory has also remained weak, falling from Tk635 crore in 2023 to Tk108 crore in 2024 before edging up to Tk136 crore in 2025.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islami-bank-posts-tk136cr-profit-despite-tk84615cr-provision-shortfall-1426556>

Renata drives Q3 earnings growth on debt overhaul, cost discipline

The Financial Express, May 01, 2026

- Renata's profit surged 33 per cent year-on-year to Tk 0.78 billion in the third quarter to March, driven mainly by a sharp fall in finance costs following major capital restructuring exercises. An increase in revenue also contributed to the business performance.

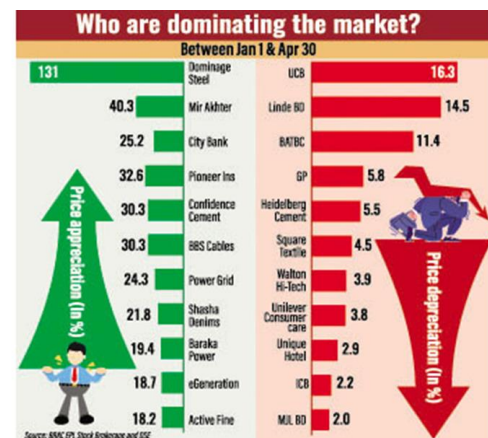
- "We have been able to grow our revenue while simultaneously improving our cost structure," said Mustafa Alim Aolad, chief financial officer (CFO) of Renata, while talking to The FE over the phone.
- "We successfully lowered our finance costs by deploying the proceeds from our preference share issuance to retire high-cost debts, a move that has structurally reduced our interest burden going forward," he added.
- The company secured alternative suppliers offering raw materials at more competitive rates. Renata also optimised its manufacturing process by increasing batch sizes, meaningfully reducing per-unit overhead costs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/renata-drives-q3-earnings-growth-on-debt-overhaul-cost-discipline>

Weak companies lead market gains amid speculative trading surge

The Financial Express, May 03, 2026

- Many of the worst-performing companies have outpaced market leaders in price gains in the secondary market over the past four months, as investors focus on short-term returns amid limited investment options.
- Apart from retailers, many institutional investors have not fixed any long-term investment strategy amid the liquidity crisis.
- Ahead of the national election held on February 12, investors had been uncertain about the future market direction. After the election, investors' expectations regarding market stability faded as the US and Israel jointly struck Iran and waged war at the end of February.
- As a result, the market outlook has become elusive, and investors remain fixated on speculative stocks in the hope of short-term gains.
- This is the backdrop in which Dominage Steel Building Systems, despite a significantly negative P/E (price-to-earnings) ratio and one of its factories being shut, has continued its rally on the stock exchanges.

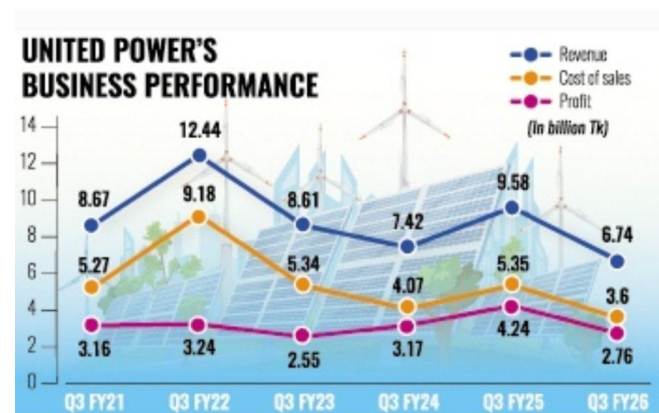


<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/weak-companies-lead-market-gains-amid-speculative-trading-surge>

United Power profit falls 35pc on lower sales, higher finance costs-

The Financial Express, May 01, 2026

- United Power Generation & Distribution Company reported a steep 35 per cent year-on-year plunge in profit in the third quarter of FY26 due to lower electricity sales and higher finance costs.
- The power producer's consolidated profit declined to Tk 2.76 billion in the January-March quarter this year from Tk 4.24 billion in the same quarter last year. During the period, revenue dropped 30 per cent year-on-year to Tk 6.74 billion.
- Profit fell primarily due to lower production levels and the absence of supplemental revenue, said the company in its earnings note.
- The company explained that in the prior year, a substantial amount of supplemental revenue arising from the bulk electricity price adjustment relating to prior gas price increases was recognised, which is absent this year, leading to lower revenue.



- As a result, the consolidated and stand-alone earnings in the current year reflect only normal operating revenue, leading to a comparative decrease in profit, said the company.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/united-power-profit-falls-35pc-on-lower-sales-higher-finance-costs>

Eastern Housing profit up 6.4pc

The Financial Express, May 01, 2026

- Listed Real Estate company Eastern Housing Limited (EHL) reported a moderate growth of 6.36 per cent in profit for the third quarter of FY26 to Tk 181.25 million.
- However, its operating cash flow turned sharply negative due to higher investment in land inventory.
- The company's earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 1.94 for the January–March quarter of 2026 from Tk 1.83 in the same period a year earlier.
- In the nine months to March, profit increased by 11.04 per cent to Tk 621.19 million.
- The net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) dropped significantly to Tk 9.38 in the negative in the nine months, as opposed to a positive Tk 1.53 in the same period last year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/eastern-housing-profit-up-64pc>

Economy & Industry

Ctg RMG factories hit by nearly half-shift load shedding; costs rise 20%

The Business Standard, May 02, 2026

- Bangladesh's readymade garment sector in Chattogram is facing mounting pressure as prolonged load shedding and rising fuel costs disrupt production, with factory owners claiming a sharp increase in expenses and growing risks to export orders.
- Although the Bangladesh Power Development Board claims that the Chattogram region is currently facing a daily load shedding of around 100MW, in reality, the situation is more difficult, according to garment owners.
- At Meher Garments on Sagarika Road in the port city, where around 3,000 workers are employed, a typical workday has become a stop-start struggle, according to the authorities.
- On 29 April, production at the factory started at 8am but stopped within 10 minutes due to a power outage. It took another 10 minutes to restart using generators. Power came back at 9:40am, but went out again at 11am. Electricity was restored an hour later.
- After the lunch break, power went out again at 4:35pm and did not return until 5:25pm. In an eight-hour shift, the factory remained without electricity for roughly three and a half hours, while repeated switching between grid power and generators caused an additional 30 minutes of disruption.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-rmg-factories-hit-nearly-half-shift-load-shedding-costs-rise-20-1427756>

Reconditioned vehicle importers seek duty cuts for hybrid cars

The Daily Star, May 02, 2026

- The Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida) has called on the government to rationalise import duties in the upcoming national budget, with a focus on fuel-efficient vehicles and foreign-currency savings.
- The association demanded duty cuts for hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles, saying that broader adoption would benefit both consumers and the government, especially amid the ongoing fuel shortage.

- At a press conference at the association's office at Bijoy Nagar area in Dhaka today, Barvida also sought the withdrawal of supplementary duty (SD) on microbuses used in public transport, industry, and educational institutions.
- Barvida President Abdul Haque said imports and sales of reconditioned vehicles have fallen sharply in recent years due to global economic pressures, currency depreciation and rising prices, even as demand remained steady.
- According to the association, around 3 lakh people directly or indirectly employed in the sector now face uncertainty over their livelihoods.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reconditioned-vehicle-importers-seek-duty-cuts-hybrid-cars-4165936>

International

Why the oil price surge threatens a US recession

The Daily Star, May 03, 2026

- US President Donald Trump's war with Iran was always unpopular at home. What made it tenable is that the American economy, buoyed by oil exports and an artificial-intelligence boom, seemed almost recession-proof. With the Strait of Hormuz still disrupted, however, even the world's largest economy needs to reckon with the possibility of a downturn.
- Until recently, economic forecasts were relatively benign, especially for the United States. When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) updated its global projections earlier this month, its so-called baseline scenario still had world output expanding 3.1 percent this year. Only under its "severe scenario," which assumed crude prices averaging \$110 per barrel in 2026 and \$125 in 2027, did the IMF foresee global growth falling below 2 percent, a pace consistent with outright contractions in many countries.
- That hypothetical future no longer feels far-fetched. The key Brent crude oil price has traded persistently above \$110 per barrel over the past week, even briefly surpassing \$120 on Thursday.
- On Thursday, official data showed a rebound in US GDP in the first quarter: output expanded at an annual 2 percent. This is far above growth rates in the euro zone and the United Kingdom. American unemployment, at 4.3 percent, remains low.
- Consider the 1990 Gulf War, though. The US economy enjoyed solid growth and near-full employment at the time. But labour demand was softening and households were starting to get worried amid the savings and loan crisis. When oil prices surged 150 percent, consumer confidence collapsed and real-terms spending stalled. The Federal Reserve, constrained by rising inflation, was slow to ease policy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/why-the-oil-price-surge-threatens-us-recession-4166116>

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