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Stock Market & Company

Junk status triggers massive sell-off in banking stocks as DSEX slides

The Business Standard, May 03, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed a significant retreat today (3 May) as a massive sell-off in the banking sector, triggered by the formal downgrade of ten more lenders to the "Z" category, dragged down the benchmark index.
- The premier bourse felt the immediate impact of investor panic as nearly 42% of the country's listed banking sector shifted into the "junk" stock segment, a move that severely eroded market sentiment and tightened liquidity across the floor.
- The benchmark DSEX index plunged by 21 points, or 0.40%, to settle the session at 5,265. While the blue-chip DS30 index managed to edge up by a marginal 0.09% to reach 2,018, the broader market breadth remained negative. Out of the 396 issues traded, 180 declined, 165 advanced, and 51 remained unchanged.
- Market participation also saw a slight contraction, with daily turnover edging down by 4% to Tk829 crore compared to the previous session.
- The day's downturn was almost entirely dictated by the banking sector. Market sources confirmed that ten banks – AB Bank, Al-Arafah Islami Bank, IFIC Bank, Mercantile Bank, NRB Bank, NRBC Bank, One Bank, Premier Bank, Rupali Bank, and United Commercial Bank – were moved to the "Z" category on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/junk-status-triggers-massive-sell-banking-stocks-dsex-slides-1428581>

ACI partners with Chinese giant Deli to launch stationery joint venture

The Business Standard, May 03, 2026

- Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) PLC is set to further diversify its business portfolio by entering the stationery market through a joint venture with the Chinese industry leader, Deli Group.
- In a regulatory filing on Thursday, the local conglomerate informed that its board of directors approved the formation of a new company titled "Deli ACI Bangladesh Limited" in a meeting held on 29 April. The joint-venture entity will have an authorised capital of Tk100 crore and an initial paid-up capital of Tk27 crore.
- ACI PLC will hold a 50% stake in the new venture, with the partnership remaining subject to the approval of the relevant regulatory authorities.
- The collaboration aims to combine Deli's international expertise in stationery manufacturing with ACI's extensive local market knowledge and its massive nationwide distribution network.

- The company stated that the venture will introduce a wide range of stationery solutions for students, professionals, and creative users, focusing on functionality, durability, and contemporary design while meeting both global standards and local demand.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-partners-chinese-giant-deli-launch-stationery-joint-venture-1428576>

Bashundhara Paper incurs Tk422cr loss in 9 months

The Business Standard, May 03, 2026

- Bashundhara Paper Mills, a concern of Bashundhara Group, has incurred a loss of Tk422 crore in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, mainly due to a shortage of raw materials and a rise in utility costs.
- During the July-March period of FY26, the company's loss widened significantly from Tk184 crore in the same period a year earlier, according to its financial statement ended in March.
- Its year-on-year revenue also plunged by 56% to Tk223.22 crore, down from Tk507.67 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.
- Despite the sharp decline in revenue, the cost of sales stood at Tk420.59 crore at the end of March 2026, compared to Tk482.11 crore in the same period a year ago.
- The company reported an operating loss of Tk523.43 crore, up from Tk230 crore in the July-March period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bashundhara-paper-incurs-tk422cr-loss-9-months-1428566>

UCB profit jumps on strong investment income despite margin pressure

The Financial Express, May 04, 2026

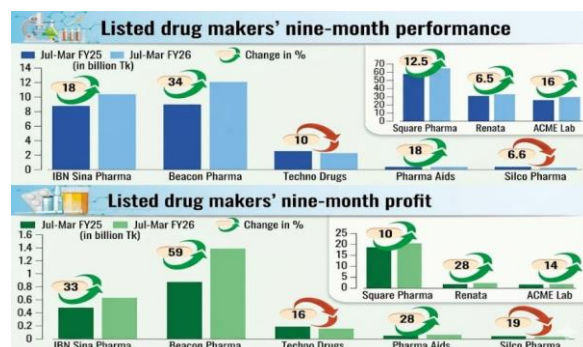
- United Commercial Bank (UCB) secured a whopping 198 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated profit to Tk 238 million in 2025 as it reaped handsome returns from investment income.
- Investment earnings, including income from Treasuries, subordinated bonds, other private sector bonds, and investments, more than doubled to Tk 15.2 billion in 2025, according to the company's latest financial statement.
- However, net interest income declined due to a sharp rise in interest expenses in a high-rate environment.
- Deposits surged 23 per cent year-on-year to a historic Tk 683.9 billion, more than double the sectoral average growth.
- UCB added nearly 678,000 new accounts during the year, including a large number of savings and current accounts, strengthening its retail base, which now accounts for 59 per cent of total deposits. Agent banking also contributed steadily, with higher average deposits per outlet.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ucb-profit-jumps-on-strong-investment-income-despite-margin-pressure>

Pharma firms resilient as profits grow strongly in July-March FY26

The Financial Express, May 04, 2026

- Most listed drug manufacturers in Bangladesh posted double-digit year-on-year profit growth in the first nine months through March, supported by rising demand, efficient cost management, and a stable forex market.
- Market analysts attributed the growth to higher sales volumes, improved operational efficiency, and sustained demand for medicines both domestically and in export markets.



- The sector's performance stands out at a time when many other industries-including multinational companies-are grappling with elevated operating costs amid persistent inflationary pressure.
- "Sales of lifesaving drugs increased due to strong local demand, while leading companies successfully managed to keep operating costs lower," Salim Afzal Shawon, head of research at BRAC EPL Stockbrokerage, told The Financial Express over the phone.
- The growing population, coupled with rising awareness of healthcare needs, has amplified demand for generic medicines in the local market, particularly for chronic diseases.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/pharma-firms-resilient-as-profits-grow-strongly-in-july-march-fy26>

Economy & Industry

Exports rebound in April after 8 months, full recovery still uncertain

The Business Standard, May 03, 2026

- Bangladesh's merchandise exports showed signs of a strong turnaround in April, snapping eight months of subdued performance with a sharp 32.92% year-on-year growth.
- According to data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) today (3 May), the recovery was driven largely by a rebound in garment shipments and improving buyer confidence following the national elections.
- Export earnings rose to \$4.01 billion in April, up from \$3.02 billion in the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, shipments also increased by 15.20% from \$3.48 billion in March.
- The April performance marks one of the strongest monthly gains in recent times, suggesting that export orders – particularly in key markets – are beginning to recover after a prolonged slowdown. However, the broader picture remains mixed.
- In the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (July-April), total export earnings stood at \$39.40 billion, down 2.02% from \$40.21 billion in the same period a year earlier. This indicates that while recent gains are significant, they have yet to fully offset earlier declines.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exports-rebound-april-ending-8-month-decline-329-growth-1428436>

Remittance inflow in April too crosses \$3.0b mark

The Financial Express, May 04, 2026

- Bangladesh sees around 14-percent annualised growth in remittance earning in April with expatriates having funneled US\$3.12 billion into the country in the just-past month.
- With the latest monthly inflow, the economy of over \$460 billion enjoyed inner remittance amounting to over \$3.0 billion each for the last four consecutive months, which gives a much-needed respite to the country amid persisting geopolitical tensions over the Middle East which accounts for major chunk of the remittance inflows.
- Bangladesh market report
- According to the latest data of Bangladesh Bank (BB), Bangladeshi people working abroad sent \$3.12 billion in April, which is the fifth- highest monthly count in the country's history.
- In April last year, the country had received \$2.75 billion, in an increase of \$375 million over the past 12 months.
- In the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (FY'26), the country so far bagged \$29.33 billion, which is 19.50-percent higher from \$24.53 billion recorded during the same period of time of the last financial year (FY'25), according to the central bank's data.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/remittance-inflow-in-april-too-crosses-30b-mark>

International

ADB unveils \$70bn plan for Asia power grids, digital highways

The Daily Star, May 03, 2026

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today launched \$70 billion worth of new energy and digital infrastructure initiatives to be implemented by 2035, aiming to connect power grids, expand cross-border electricity trade, and improve broadband access across Asia and the Pacific.
- Bangladesh, situated between South Asia and Southeast Asia, is expected to play an important role in linking the two subregions, particularly in power grids, officials said.
- ADB President Masato Kanda announced the initiative at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of ADB in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The four-day event began today.
- “Energy and digital access will define the region’s future,” Kanda said. “ADB is bringing Asia and the Pacific together to build the energy grids and digital highways that will power the region’s future.”
- The initiative includes \$50 billion for the Pan-Asia Power Grid and \$20 billion for the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway.
- “Across developing Asia, demand for reliable and affordable electricity is growing faster than systems can deliver. The Pan-Asia Power Grid will help countries connect their power systems, scale up cross-border electricity trade, and accelerate the integration of renewable energy,” he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-unveils-70bn-plan-asia-power-grids-digital-highways-4166721>

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