

Key News

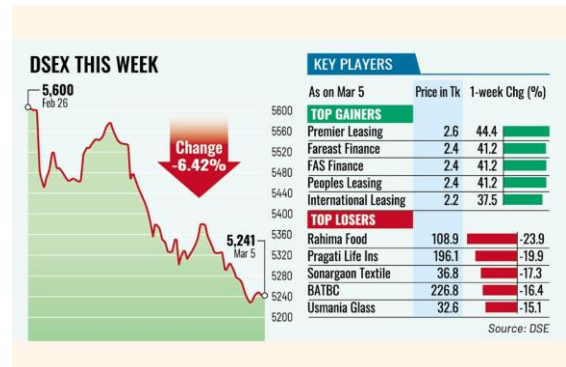
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Stock Market & Company

Escalating Iran conflict sends stocks reeling

The Financial Express, Mar 07, 2026

- The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) tumbled this week, snapping a six-week winning streak, as investors were rattled by the escalating conflict in the Middle East.
- Geographic Reference
- Market analysts said stocks suffered a major setback amid rising geopolitical tensions in the region, prompting jittery investors to offload their holdings over fears of further erosion in asset values.
- The turbulence followed strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran on February 28 that killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei along with several top security officials. In retaliation, Iran launched missiles targeting Israel and US military bases across the Middle East, escalating the conflict.
- Economists and market insiders warned that if the conflict drags on, it could lead to longer shipping routes, higher freight charges, rising energy prices and ultimately increased production costs across the global economy.
- Bangladesh's energy security remains heavily dependent on Middle Eastern suppliers such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, leaving the country vulnerable to potential disruptions in the Gulf.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/escalating-iran-conflict-sends-stocks-reeling>

Unilever Consumer Care declares 420% cash dividend for 2025

The Business Standard, Mar 07, 2026

- Unilever Consumer Care Limited has recommended a 420% cash dividend for its shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2025, according to a price-sensitive disclosure approved on 5 March.
- The company had declared a higher 520% cash dividend for the previous year. The proposed dividend will be placed for approval at the annual general meeting scheduled for 18 May, while the record date to determine eligible shareholders has been fixed for 6 April.
- The healthcare and consumer products manufacturer reported improved profitability during the year. Earnings per share rose 19% year-on-year to Tk41.21. However, the net asset value per share declined by 8.30% to Tk116.30.

- Despite higher profits, the company posted a negative net operating cash flow per share of Tk21.54, compared to a positive Tk25.62 in the previous year.
- In its disclosure, the company said profit growth was mainly driven by strong revenue performance and improved operational efficiency. It also benefited from a one-off gain arising from the reassessment of prior obligations related to technology and trademark royalty payments. Additionally, efficient investment of surplus cash contributed to significantly higher net finance income during the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/unilever-consumer-care-declares-420-cash-dividend-2025-1379881>

Z-category stocks dominate weekly gainers despite market slump

The Business Standard, Mar 07, 2026

- Despite a steep fall in the benchmark indices last week amid Middle East tensions, several Z-category stocks – commonly considered junk shares – dominated the gainers' chart on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Premier Leasing emerged as the top gainer of the week, surging 44.44% to close at Tk2.60. Fareast Finance, FAS Finance and Peoples Leasing each rose 41.18% to Tk2.40, while International Leasing advanced 37.50% to Tk2.20.
- Other notable gainers included Familytex, which climbed 31.82% to Tk2.90, Tung Hai Knitting rose 30.77% to Tk3.40, and Nurani Dyeing gained 29.63% to Tk3.50. Generation Next increased 25% to Tk3.50, while Appollo Ispat advanced 24.14% to close the week at Tk3.60.
- However, all the companies that led the weekly gainers' chart are currently loss-making, according to market data. Several of them are also facing severe operational challenges.
- Market information from the Dhaka bourse shows that Familytex, Tung Hai Knitting, Nurani Dyeing, Generation Next and Appollo Ispat are currently out of operation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/z-category-stocks-dominate-weekly-gainers-despite-market-slump-1379876>

BSEC disapproves Yeakin Polymer sponsors' share acquisition over loan NOCs

The Business Standard, Mar 04, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) did not approve the proposal for FCS Holdings Ltd to acquire the shares of Yeakin Polymer held by the company's sponsor directors because the required No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for defaulted loans were not provided.
- According to BSEC sources, the application was rejected because the applicants failed to submit the required No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the relevant banks and financial institutions regarding the company's defaulted loans. Yeakin Polymer currently has outstanding loans of around Tk52 crore with banks and financial institutions.
- Sources said FCS Holdings had sought approval from the commission to acquire a significant number of shares from the sponsor-directors of Yeakin Polymer. Under the plan, the share transfer would have enabled FCS Holdings to become a major shareholder in the company.
- However, during the review process, the regulator found that Yeakin Polymer has defaulted loans with Islami Bank Bangladesh and Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd (IIDFC). In such cases, obtaining consent from the lending institutions is mandatory before any transfer of sponsor-directors' shares can proceed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-disapproves-yeakin-polymer-sponsors-share-acquisition-over-loan-nocs-1379866>

GQ Ball Pen director to transfer Tk10.5cr shares to sister

The Business Standard, Mar 05, 2026

- Qazi Saleemul Huq, director of GQ Ball Pen Industries, has announced plans to gift company shares worth Tk10.50 crore to his sister, Shermin Huq, a general shareholder, marking a transfer of ownership within the family.
- According to a disclosure filed with the stock exchanges today (5 March), Saleemul Huq – who currently holds 23.44 lakh shares – will transfer 2 lakh shares, representing ar 2.24% stake in the company, as a gift outside the trading system of the exchanges.
- The transfer is expected to be completed within 30 working days starting from 3 March.
- After eight consecutive years of losses and steadily declining sales, the company's shares have surged significantly in recent months. Despite weak business fundamentals – including low sales and continued losses – the company's market capitalisation has climbed to about Tk474 crore, even though its annual sales are only around Tk2 crore.
- According to data from the Dhaka Stock Exchange, GQ Ball Pen's share price closed at Tk525.10 each today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gq-ball-pen-director-transfer-tk105cr-shares-sister-1378356>

Economy & Industry

Finance ministry weighs impacts of ME war on economy

The Financial Express, Mar 06, 2026

- Officials at the ministry of finance have started assessing the possible impacts of the ongoing war in the Middle East on Bangladesh's economy and ways to manage the potential financial burden arising from it, sources said. Financial literacy course
- The ministry launched the study on Thursday following instructions from the government high-ups.
- Officials said the ministry has been asked to submit a report before the next cabinet meeting, where the issue will be discussed to decide the next course of action.
- On February 28, Israel and the United States launched airstrikes on Iran, and the attacks have continued for six days as of Thursday. Iran has retaliated by targeting Israeli positions and US military bases in several Middle Eastern countries, spreading the conflict across the Gulf region and leaving hundreds dead.
- Enraged by US-Israel joint attacks, Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman that serves as the only sea route from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean. It is one of the world's most strategically important chokepoints.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/finance-ministry-weighs-impacts-of-me-war-on-economy>

BB sits with economists tomorrow

The Financial Express, Mar 06, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank now decides to sit with leading economists and think tanks tomorrow (Saturday) to discuss the crisis-management strategies in the wake of war against Iran by the Israel-USA coalition.
- The central bank's decision came just a day after the postponement of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, which was convened to revise its policy rate.
- Just a few days after taking charge of the central bank head, BB Governor Mostaqur Rahman convened the MPC meeting on Wednesday last in order to readjust the higher policy rate, but the meeting was postponed due to an unknown reason.
- But BB sources said the MPC meeting was called at a time when international trade activities were in trouble as the war in the Middle East had already pushed global oil prices up and raised concerns about wider economic disruption.
- When contacted, a MPC member and Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr. AK Enamul Haque said the MPC meeting was called in short notice recently but it was cancelled later.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-sits-with-economists-tomorrow>

International

Iran war threatens prolonged hit to global energy markets

The Daily Star, Mar 08, 2026

- The US-Israeli war with Iran could leave consumers and businesses worldwide facing weeks or months of higher fuel prices even if the week-old conflict ends quickly, as suppliers grapple with damaged facilities, disrupted logistics, and elevated risks to shipping.
- The outlook poses a global economic threat and a political vulnerability for US President Donald Trump leading into the midterm elections, with voters sensitive to energy bills and unfavorable to foreign entanglements.
- "The market is shifting from pricing pure geopolitical risk to grappling with tangible operational disruption, as refinery shutdowns and export constraints begin to impair crude processing and regional supply flows," JP Morgan analysts said in a research note on Friday.
- The conflict has already led to the suspension of around a fifth of global crude and natural gas supply, as Tehran targets ships in the vital Strait of Hormuz between its shores and Oman, and attacks energy infrastructure across the region.
- Global oil prices have surged more than 25% since the start of the war, driving up fuel prices for consumers worldwide.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/iran-war-threatens-prolonged-hit-global-energy-markets-4123496>

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