

Key News

[Panic sell: Stocks slump in biggest single-day drop in 6 years](#)
[Olympic Industries to invest in machinery to expand carton, food processing](#)
[Share manipulation fines hit a whopping Tk1,500cr, but recovery remains minimal](#)
[Govt aims to upgrade stock market from frontier to emerging status](#)
[BSEC removes bar on whistleblowers sharing information](#)
[Inflation rises further in February](#)
[Food prices drive inflation rate above 9.0pc after eight months](#)
[A history of oil price swings this century](#)

Stock Market & Company

Panic sell: Stocks slump in biggest single-day drop in 6 years

The Business Standard, Mar 08, 2026

- The Dhaka stock market suffered its sharpest single-day decline in six years today (8 March), with the benchmark index DSEX losing 231 points amid fears of energy supply uncertainty linked to the United States–Israel war on Iran.
- Of the traded stocks, 95% or 371 stocks saw price decline amid sell-offs, only 10 stocks price advanced and 9 stocks price remained unchanged.
- At the end of the trading session, DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) lost 231 points or around 4.42% closed to 5,008 points, which is the highest single-day fall since March 2020.
- Six years ago, the key index DSEX witnessed a massive plunge amid investors' panic-driven sales due to the fear of the coronavirus impact.
- Meanwhile, the DSE's shariah index fell 3.36% or 35 points to 1,013 points and DS-30, the blue-chip index fell 4.55% or 91.53 points to 1,919 points.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-drops-108-points-over-energy-supply-uncertainty-amid-middle-east-war-1379991>

Olympic Industries to invest in machinery to expand carton, food processing

The Business Standard, Mar 08, 2026

- Olympic Industries PLC has approved the purchase and import of new capital machinery to expand its packaging and food processing capacity.
- The decision was taken at a board meeting held on Saturday, according to a disclosure filed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.
- Under the plan, the company will import two sets of brand-new capital machinery to establish a carton production plant. The equipment will have a combined annual production capacity of 315.36 million pieces, with each set capable of producing 157.68 million pieces per year.
- The machinery will be procured from China at a total cost of \$500,000, including freight charges, which is equivalent to around Tk6.13 crore. The machines will be installed and commissioned at the company's Kutubpur factory in Narayanganj.
- In a separate move, the board also approved the purchase of a brand-new egg washing and breaking machine for its food processing operations. The machine, which will have an annual capacity of 175.20 million pieces, will be imported from Hong Kong.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/olympic-industries-invest-machinery-expand-carton-food-processing-1381041>

Share manipulation fines hit a whopping Tk1,500cr, but recovery remains minimal

The Business Standard, Mar 08, 2026

- In a bid to curb share manipulation, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission imposed hefty fines totalling around Tk1,500 crore on influential investors – often described as gamblers – for breaching securities laws, mostly through serial trading, over the past one and a half years under the interim government.
- The fines, aimed at restoring market order, were primarily issued between 8 August 2024 and 16 February this year, marking the largest enforcement action in the country's capital market since the regulator was established in 1993.
- However, recovery of the fines has reached only about 0.35% – roughly Tk5.23 crore – as many penalised investors have yet to pay, and some have challenged the regulator's decisions, raising questions about the effectiveness of the enforcement drive.
- Following the formation of the new government, the Ministry of Finance sought details about the commission's activities. In response, the BSEC submitted a report outlining measures taken during the past 18 months, including enforcement actions against share manipulation.
- The current commission, led by former banker Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, was formed after the ousting of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/share-manipulation-fines-hit-whopping-tk1500cr-recovery-remains-minimal-1381051>

Govt aims to upgrade stock market from frontier to emerging status

The Business Standard, Mar 08, 2026

- The government is planning to upgrade Bangladesh's stock market from its current frontier market status to an emerging market in a bid to strengthen the capital market and restore investor confidence, Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance and Planning Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir has said.
- He said the government's immediate priority is to deepen and broaden the capital market while increasing participation from ordinary citizens so that more people can take part in economic activities not only as consumers but also as owners.
- Titumir made the remarks at a discussion titled "Challenges and Way Forward for the New Government in the Capital Market," organised by the Capital Market Journalists Forum (CMJF) at Fars Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.
- Bangladesh's equity market is currently classified as a frontier market by major global index providers, a category generally used for smaller or less liquid markets that are still developing and have not yet reached the scale and accessibility of emerging markets.
- Speaking at the event, Titumir said structural reforms are essential to transform the capital market and achieve the government's long-term goals.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-aims-upgrade-stock-market-frontier-emerging-status-1381056>

BSEC removes bar on whistleblowers sharing information

The Financial Express, Mar 08, 2026

- In a significant policy shift, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has now decided in principle to allow whistleblowers to share with the media or other authorities the information they have submitted to the regulator. Bangladesh market trends
- The securities regulator took the decision in response to strong criticism from experts over a provision in the proposed whistleblower rules that barred the disclosure of information to any other person or authority.

- The proposed rules titled "Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Capital Market Related Information Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection) Rules, 2026" are intended to encourage insiders to report corruption and misconduct in the capital market.
- But the prohibitive restriction has drawn strong opposition from experts, including Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). They argue that whistleblowers should have the freedom to share information with others.
- The regulator has already uploaded the draft rules on its website and sought public opinions.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-removes-bar-on-whistleblowers-sharing-information>

Economy & Industry

Inflation rises further in February

The Financial Express, Mar 08, 2026

- Inflationary pressure on the country's economy increased further in February, mainly due to a rise in both food and non-food prices, ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr festival.
- Inflation as measured by the consumers' price index (CPI) rose to 9.13 per cent in February 2026 from 8.58 per cent in the previous month on the point-to-point basis, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)'s latest data, released on Sunday.
- The rate of inflation in the case of food items reached 8.30 per cent in February 2026 from 8.29 per cent a month before, while the non-food inflation rose to 9.01 per cent from 8.81 per cent.
- On the other hand, the inflation came down to 8.65 per cent during the period under review from 8.66 per cent a month ago on the 12-month average basis, the BBS data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-decides-not-to-release-new-currency-notes-for-eid-ul-fitr>

Food prices drive inflation rate above 9.0pc after eight months

The Financial Express, Mar 08, 2026

- Food prices have driven up the inflation rate past 9.0 per cent for the first time in eight months.
- Inflation rose for a fourth consecutive month, hitting 9.13 per cent year-on-year in February. The rate was 9.32 per cent in February, 2025.
- This means that a bundle of goods and services that cost an average of Tk 100 in February 2025 was priced at Tk 109.13 in February 2026, as per a bdnews24.com report.
- According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, February's inflation rate is the highest since last April. The rate was 9.13 per cent at the time and fell to 9.05 per cent in May. The rate continued to decline, eventually hitting a 39-month low of 8.17 per cent.
- But prices began to heat up afterwards. In November, it rose to 8.29 per cent. By December, it was 8.49 per cent, and in January it was 8.58 per cent. Now it has leapt up past the 9.0 per cent threshold.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-decides-not-to-release-new-currency-notes-for-eid-ul-fitr>

International

A history of oil price swings this century

The Daily Star, Mar 09, 2026

- The price of the US benchmark WTI oil contract topping \$100 after the United States launched a military attack against major crude producer Iran is the latest significant swing experienced by the commodity this century.
- AFP examines the volatile movements, including when crude surged to record highs close to \$150 per barrel in 2008, before turning negative 12 years later during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Crude futures last climbed above \$100 in February 2022, soon after the invasion of Ukraine by oil and gas producer Russia.
- In March of that year, prices approached their 2008 highs, with Brent reaching \$139.13 and the main US contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), \$130.50.
- Fears of insufficient oil supplies as Western sanctions against Russia followed -- coupled with increased demand after the Covid-19 pandemic -- kept prices mostly above \$100 until the summer of 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/history-oil-price-swings-century-4124326>

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