BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

August 13, 2026

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Key News

- [Dhaka stocks slip as margin rule concerns dampen rally]
- [Non-functional New Line Clothings fails to explain DSE query over abnormal share price surge]
- [World's largest sovereign fund trims Bangladesh exposure as Norway's 'Oil Fund' investment hits six-year low]
- [BSEC to probe allegations of irregularities against DSE top officials]
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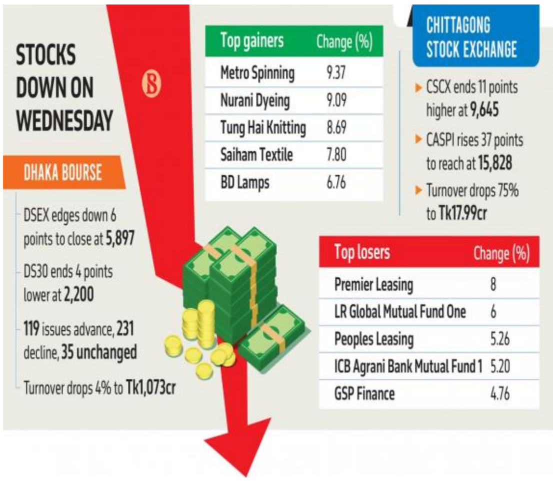
- [Finance minister defends inflation data amid manipulation allegations]
- [US delegation in Dhaka to explore investment opportunities]

Stock Market & Company

Dhaka stocks slip as margin rule concerns dampen rally

The Business Standard, Aug 12, 2026



- Dhaka stocks edged lower today (12 August) as investors booked profits following a recent rally, while caution over potential changes to margin lending rules, along with persistent macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties, weighed on market sentiment.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell 6 points to close at 5,897. The blue-chip DS30 index also declined 4 points to settle at 2,200.
- Market breadth remained weak, with 231 issues declining against 119 advancing, while 35 remained unchanged. Turnover fell 4% to Tk1,073 crore, reflecting relatively subdued trading activity as investors stayed cautious.
- In its daily market commentary, EBL Securities said the benchmark index failed to sustain its upward momentum as investors booked profits and adopted a cautious stance ahead of potential changes to margin rules. Persistent macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties also kept investors on the sidelines, the brokerage added.
- Sheltech Brokerage attributed the day's trading primarily to profit-taking and cautious investor sentiment. The DSEX opened on strong buying interest, briefly touching an intraday high of 5,943.52 points, before the momentum faded as selling pressure emerged and intensified through the session. The index slid to an intraday low of 5,893 points. A late-session rebound attempt failed to gain sufficient traction to offset the selling pressure, leaving the benchmark to close near its day's low.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-stocks-slip-margin-rule-concerns-dampen-rally-1513471

Non-functional New Line Clothings fails to explain DSE query over abnormal share price surge

The Business Standard, Aug 12, 2026

- New Line Clothings, a non-functional company, has failed to respond to a query from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) regarding an abnormal surge in its share price and trading volume.
- In a disclosure on its website, the bourse said it had sent the query letter to the company on 2 August after noticing an unusual rise in its share price, but the company is yet to respond.

- Meanwhile, DSE data showed that the share price of New Line Clothings kept rising until 2 August, when the query was sent, but has been declining since then amid selling pressure.
- Data showed that until 2 August, New Line Clothings' share price surged around 33% in just five trading days, reaching Tk7.3 each, despite its factory closure. Since then, the price has fallen to Tk6.9 each today.
- According to the DSE, an inspection team visited the company's Gazipur premises on 8 April and found its headquarters and factory completely shut down, confirming a halt in operations. The textile firm, which was listed on the bourse in 2019, has not officially disclosed the closure.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/non-functional-new-line-clothings-fails-explain-dse-query-over-abnormal-share-price

World's largest sovereign fund trims Bangladesh exposure as Norway's 'Oil Fund' investment hits six-year low

The Business Standard, Aug 12, 2026

- Government Pension Fund Global, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, has significantly scaled back its exposure to the Bangladeshi capital market.
- During the first half of 2026, the fund's investment in the country dropped by 18%, equivalent to a reduction of $21.25 million.
- According to the half-yearly report released today (12 August) by Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM), which manages the fund, the total value of its Bangladeshi portfolio stood at $95.87 million as of June 2026.
- This decline marks a continued retreat from a peak valuation of $248.35 million recorded in 2020. Over the last six years, the fund – popularly known as the "Oil Fund" due to its origins in managing Norway's petroleum revenues – has steadily reduced its footprint in the Dhaka bourse.
- From $211.89 million in 2021, the investment fell to $155.04 million in 2022 and further down to $117.12 million by the end of 2025, before hitting its current six-year low.
- The reduction in exposure was broad-based, affecting almost all of the fund's major holdings in Bangladesh's blue-chip companies.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/worlds-largest-sovereign-fund-trims-bangladesh-exposure-norways-oil-fund-investment

BSEC to probe allegations of irregularities against DSE top officials

The Business Standard, Aug 11, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has initiated an investigation into allegations of financial mismanagement, corporate governance failures, irregular recruitment and securities trading involving senior officials of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- The BSEC's Market Intelligence and Investigation Division issued an enquiry order in this regard on 10 August.
- According to the order, the investigation is aimed at determining whether the DSE recently failed to properly discharge its regulatory responsibilities and whether its top officials were involved in business activities or securities trading.
- It will also examine allegations raised by DSE shareholder member Don Securities, including widespread financial mismanagement, corporate governance deficiencies and irregular recruitment practices.
- The commission will investigate whether the DSE's chief operating officer, general managers and other senior officials have been involved in securities trading, as well as whether top officials, their family members or related parties have interests in other capital market businesses involving a fiduciary relationship with DSE officials.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-probe-allegations-irregularities-against-dse-top-officials-1513251

Economy & Industry

Frequent power cuts put small businesses under pressure

The Daily Star, Aug 12, 2026

- Each time the electricity goes out, Abdus Salam's lathes at a workshop in Pabna grind to a halt. Workers at Rezbin Hafiz's small shoe factory in Dhamrai also have to stop work and wait for hours for power to return. At Abul Kashem's engineering unit in Keraniganj, production comes to a standstill, leaving workers battling the heat and falling behind on delivery deadlines.
- All of these are small and medium-sized businesses. Unlike large manufacturers and exporters, they cannot afford to run generators to keep their machines going during power cuts. Therefore, frequent outages directly hurt their productivity and revenue.
- As load shedding now lasts for around half the day in some areas, these businesses are facing serious disruption.
- "We cannot manufacture a shoe properly due to load shedding, and time gets lost, and production is delayed," said Rezbin Hafiz, managing director of Peoples Footwear and Leathergoods at Dhamrai BSCIC Industrial Estate.
- A mechanic repairs a generator on Sheikh Russel Road in Khulna amid rising demand for backup power. PHOTOS: AZAHAR UDDIN, AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, HABIBUR RAHMAN
- She said production costs had already risen over the past three years because of higher raw material prices. "Our buyers have cut their orders," she told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/egypt-keen-invest-countrys-industrial-sector-1511501

Finance minister defends inflation data amid manipulation allegations

The Daily Star, Aug 12, 2026

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury today denied allegations of data manipulation in the latest inflation figures, saying the decline in inflation in July was primarily driven by lower rice and meat prices.
- "This government will by no means distort information. Rather, we want to re-examine past statistical errors or misleading data presented to the public and work based on accurate facts," he said.
- "Having correct data is crucial for the government, as policy will be formulated based on those numbers," he added.
- The minister was responding to reporters' questions about inflation data and why people do not believe it at the closing ceremony of a three-day conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.
- He said the government had verified the decline in rice and meat prices, as well as the format and methodology used to calculate the newly released inflation figures.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/finance-minister-defends-inflation-data-amid-manipulation-allegations-4246106

International

US delegation in Dhaka to explore investment opportunities

The Daily Star, Aug 13, 2026

- A 45-member business delegation from the United States, representing 25 companies under the US-Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC), arrived in Dhaka on August 11 to explore investment opportunities.
- The USBBC, a wing of the US Chamber of Commerce, is the advocacy body representing American business interests in bilateral trade with Bangladesh.
- The delegation includes officials from major American companies such as Chevron, Excelerate Energy, Visa and Mastercard, according to a US Embassy official in Dhaka.
- They are targeting technology, AI and digital innovation, cloud and cybersecurity, healthcare and life sciences, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and the financial sector, the official added.
- The delegation has held a series of meetings with trade bodies and ministry officials to gauge investment potential across sectors, the embassy official said.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-delegation-dhaka-explore-investment-opportunities-4246361

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