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Stock Market & Company

United Finance posts 31% growth in Q1 profit

The Business Standard, May 13, 2026

- United Finance PLC has reported a strong start to the 2026 financial year, with its net profit after tax surging by 31% during the first quarter of the year ending 31 March.
- According to the company's financial results released today (13 May), the non-bank financial institution earned a net profit of Tk0.75 crore in the January-March period, up from the corresponding period of the previous year. This growth was largely attributed to improved operational efficiency and a steady expansion across its core business segments.
- The significant bottom-line growth pushed the company's earnings per share (EPS) to Tk0.04 for the three months, compared to Tk0.03 in the first quarter of 2025. The company's net asset value (NAV) per share also saw a modest improvement, rising to Tk17.94 from Tk17.90 recorded at the end of the previous year.
- Contacted, Mohammed Abul Ahsan, acting managing director of the firm, said that the results reflect the positive momentum built across the organisation.
- He noted that the 31% surge in net profit, combined with healthy growth in both the loan portfolio and deposit base, reaffirms the strength of the company's diversified business model.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/united-finance-posts-31-growth-q1-profit-1438556>

bKash reports Tk184cr profit in Jan-Mar

The Business Standard, May 13, 2026

- bKash Limited, the country's largest mobile financial services (MFS) provider, has reported a 40% increase in net profit, reaching Tk184 crore, as revenue continued to grow strongly across successive quarters.
- According to the unaudited financial statement of bKash, a subsidiary of BRAC Bank, the company's net revenue rose by 10% to Tk1,802 crore in the first quarter of 2026.
- Speaking to TBS, bKash Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Moinuddin Mohammed Rahgir said, "bKash has consistently demonstrated the sustainability of its business model while continuing to support a more inclusive financial ecosystem for millions of Bangladeshis."
- The company's persistent investments in technology, regulatory compliance and cyber security have helped strengthen customer trust and increase engagement across its platform. With an increasing proportion of its customer base now transacting regularly, reflecting growing confidence in digital financial services, said CFO.
- This higher level of usage has contributed to growth in both revenue and profitability. Looking ahead, bKash will continue investing in a stronger financial ecosystem, digital commerce and payment solutions as Bangladesh moves toward a more cashless and digitally empowered economy, he further added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-reports-tk184cr-profit-jan-mar-1438551>

Eastern Bank profit jumps 28% in Q1

The Business Standard, May 13, 2026

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) posted a 28% year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit in the first quarter of 2026, driven by higher investment income and strong foreign exchange earnings, says a press release.
- According to the bank's January-March financial statement, consolidated profit after tax rose to Tk199 crore from Tk155 crore in the same period last year.
- Consolidated earnings per share increased to Tk1.24 from Tk0.97 a year earlier, while net asset value per share rose to Tk32.75 from Tk26.41.
- EBL Managing Director Hassan O Rashid said the bank delivered resilient performance despite slower private sector credit growth.
- "We continue to remain focused on maintaining strong asset quality, liquidity and capital strength while ensuring superior financial result for our shareholders." he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-bank-profit-jumps-28-q1-1438476>

New BSEC chief likely as market crisis deepens

The Daily Sun, May 14, 2026

- Bangladesh's prolonged capital market crisis has reached a critical stage, with no new initial public offering (IPOs) entering the market for more than two years, slowing foreign investment and persistent share price declines deepening investor concerns.
- In response, the government is reportedly taking steps to restore confidence and stabilise the market, including easing the appointment process for an experienced Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) chairman by removing the age limit requirement.
- Against this backdrop, the government is moving toward a final decision on appointing the next chairman of the BSEC, according to sources.
- Among the potential candidates, Unilever Consumer Care Chairman Masud Khan has emerged as the frontrunner.
- Several sources said he is likely to become the next head of the capital market regulator if the government proceeds with its current plan.



<https://www.daily-sun.com/stock-market/874604>

BSEC fines Fortune Shoes chairman Tk5cr over unpaid dividends, listing fees

The Business Standard, May 13, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has imposed hefty financial penalties on the chairman and several officials of the listed company Fortune Shoes over failure to distribute declared cash dividends and pay listing fees, while also approving regulatory relaxations for restructured listed firms and banks.

- The decisions were taken at a commission meeting held today (13 May), according to a BSEC press release. The regulator said Fortune Shoes had declared a 10% cash dividend and 5% stock dividend for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2022, but failed to distribute Tk3.98 crore out of the total declared cash dividend amount of Tk16.25 crore.
- The company also failed to pay Tk18.29 lakh in listing fees owed to the Dhaka Stock Exchange for the previous three years up to 31 July 2023.
- The BSEC directed the company to clear the unpaid cash dividends and listing fees within 30 days of the order, warning that failure to comply would harm investors' interests and violate securities laws. As part of the enforcement measures, Fortune Shoes Chairman Md Mizanur Rahman was fined Tk5 crore, the largest penalty among those sanctioned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-fines-fortune-shoes-chairman-tk5cr-over-unpaid-dividends-listing-fees-1438591>

Economy & Industry

What Bangladesh Bank's NBFi liquidation plan means for depositors

The Daily Star, May 13, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has decided in principle to liquidate five troubled non-bank financial institutions from July, marking one of the biggest regulatory actions in the sector's history. The move comes amid mounting depositor protests, rising bad loans, and years of governance failures. Here are the key questions and answers surrounding the decision.
- Which institutions are being liquidated? The board of Bangladesh Bank has decided in principle to liquidate five non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) from July this year.
- The institutions are: FAS Finance, Fareast Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing, International Leasing
- Why are these institutions being liquidated? According to central bank officials, the institutions collapsed due to: widespread mismanagement, weak governance, heavy exposure to non-performing loans, poor regulatory intervention, and oversight failures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/what-bangladesh-banks-nbfi-liquidation-plan-means-depositors-4174886>

Pharmaceutical sector to face pressure from LDC graduation

The Business Standard, May 13, 2026

- Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry may face major pressure after the country graduates from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, stakeholders warned.
- They said many medicines currently produced under patent waiver facilities may no longer be manufactured without licences from international companies once those benefits end. This could raise production costs and push up medicine prices.
- Experts said Bangladesh will struggle to remain competitive in international markets unless investment in research and development (R&D) increases. They also warned that next-generation medicines for cancer and other complex diseases could become unaffordable for ordinary people.
- The issues were discussed today (13 May) at a workshop held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. The inception workshop, titled "Strengthening Competitiveness and Innovation of the Pharmaceutical Industry for Sustainable Growth in the Context of LDC Graduation," was jointly organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Health Economics Institute.
- The keynote paper was presented by health economist Professor Dr Syed Abdul Hamid. He said Bangladesh is currently able to produce many generic medicines without licences from global companies, helping keep production costs low and prices affordable.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/pharmaceutical-sector-face-pressure-ldc-graduation-1438521>

International

Iran war and oil to dominate BRICS meet in India

The Daily Star, May 14, 2026

- Foreign ministers from the BRICS group of nations, including Iran and Russia, meet in India on Thursday, with the Middle East conflict and related fuel crisis set to dominate discussions.
- India, which holds the BRICS chair this year, is hosting the two-day gathering of foreign ministers from the expanded bloc, which now includes Iran and the United Arab Emirates -- countries at odds over the conflict launched by the United States and Israel on February 28.
- India's foreign ministry said talks will focus on "global and regional issues of mutual interest", spokesman Randhir Jaiswal told reporters.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi arrived in New Delhi late Wednesday, Iran's embassy in India said.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is also attending. He met his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar after arriving in New Delhi on Wednesday evening.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/iran-war-and-oil-dominate-brics-meet-india-4175431>

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