

Key News

[Stocks edge down as cautious investors watch new government take oath](#)

[Two general insurers declare dividends for 2025](#)

[Asiatic Laboratories' pre-IPO shares to remain locked-in until completion of 32-storey building](#)

[Premier Cement gets BSEC nod to raise Tk161cr through preference shares](#)

[Power Grid to issue Tk1,324cr into preference shares for govt](#)

[India looks to new steel export markets](#)

[Dollar holds gains in thin trading](#)

[Gold slides over 2% on strong dollar](#)

Stock Market & Company

Stocks edge down as cautious investors watch new government take oath

The Business Standard, Feb 17, 2026

- Stocks extended their losing streak for a second straight session today (17 February), with key indices edging lower as investors adopted a cautious stance following the swearing-in of the new government.
- The benchmark DSEX of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell 18 points to settle at 5,570. The blue-chip DS30 index also declined by 9 points to close at 2,126. Market breadth remained negative, as 238 issues declined against 131 advances, while 27 remained unchanged.
- Turnover at the premier bourse slightly decreased to Tk1,222 crore compared to the previous session, indicating subdued participation.
- Market insiders said investors remained watchful of the evolving political landscape after the new government took oath today, prompting many to lock in recent gains rather than take fresh positions.
- Analysts expect investors to remain cautious in the near term as they assess policy signals from the new administration.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-edge-down-cautious-investors-watch-new-government-take-oath-1364551>

Two general insurers declare dividends for 2025

The Business Standard, Feb 17, 2026

- Two listed general insurers, Crystal Insurance Company Limited and Sena Insurance PLC, have declared cash dividends for the year ended 31 December 2025, alongside mixed investor reactions despite stronger earnings.
- Crystal Insurance's board of directors has recommended a 12% cash dividend, after reporting higher profitability.
- The company reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk3.34, net asset value (NAV) per share of Tk27.65 and net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk1.74 for the year ended 31 December 2025.
- In comparison, it posted EPS of Tk3.13, NAV per share of Tk25.67 and NOCFPS of Tk2.20 for 2024.
- Its annual general meeting is scheduled for 30 March at 11:00am via a digital platform, with 9 March fixed as the record date.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-general-insurers-declare-dividends-2025-1364571>

Asiatic Laboratories' pre-IPO shares to remain locked-in until completion of 32-storey building

The Business Standard, Feb 17, 2026

- The pre-IPO shares held by the sponsors, directors and placement shareholders of Asiatic Laboratories will remain under lock-in until three years beyond the existing lock-in expiry date or until the completion and commercial operation of its proposed 32-storey building — whichever occurs later.
- The decision was taken by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) today (17 February), according to a press release. The extended lock-in will apply to shares held by 183 individuals and institutions mentioned in the company's prospectus.
- The regulator said the decision was made considering recommendations from an inspection report of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, prevailing market conditions and the interest of general investors.
- Asiatic Laboratories received approval from the commission at its 837th meeting on 31 August 2022 to raise Tk95 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). According to its prospectus, the company planned to use the IPO proceeds for business expansion, including purchase and installation of machinery, construction of a factory building, repayment of bank loans and covering issue management expenses.
- However, the company has yet to complete the utilisation of the IPO funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asiatic-laboratories-pre-ipo-shares-remain-locked-until-completion-32-storey-0>

Premier Cement gets BSEC nod to raise Tk161cr through preference shares

The Business Standard, Feb 17, 2026

- Premier Cement Mills PLC has received regulatory approval to raise Tk161 crore through the issuance of preference shares, as the company moves to restructure its balance sheet and reduce rising finance costs.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), in a letter dated 16 February, approved the cement maker's plan to issue 322 fully redeemable, non-convertible, non-participating and cumulative preference shares of Tk50 lakh each at par, totalling Tk161 crore, under the Securities and Exchange Commission (Issue of Capital) Rules, 2001.
- According to the company, the proceeds from the preference shares will be used to restructure its existing balance sheet and repay high-cost short-term liabilities, in line with a decision taken by its board of directors and later endorsed by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting.
- Following the disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (17 February), Premier Cement's share price remained unchanged at Tk39.30.
- Preference shares are a class of stock that entitles holders to receive dividends ahead of ordinary shareholders. In the event of liquidation, preference shareholders also have priority over common shareholders in claims on company assets.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/premier-cement-gets-bsec-nod-raise-tk161cr-through-preference-shares-1364556>

Power Grid to issue Tk1,324cr into preference shares for govt

The Business Standard, Feb 17, 2026

- Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB), a state-owned power transmission company, is set to convert Tk1,324 crore in share money deposits received from the government for its development projects into preference shares.
- In a letter dated today (17 February), the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), the capital market regulator, approved the issuance of the shares in favour of the secretary of the Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.
- Under the government financing structure, 60% is treated as equity and the remainder as loans, with the equity portion recorded as deposits for shares. At the end of June 2025, PGCB's outstanding share money deposits stood at Tk2,954.81 crore.

- Power Grid has already issued 20.10 crore general shares and 1,014.65 crore irredeemable and non-cumulative preference shares at Tk10 each in favour of the secretary of the Power Division.
- According to company sources, Tk1,324 crore was received from the government in the 2023–24 fiscal year, and the company is now proceeding with the share issuance to comply with a notification issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/power-grid-issue-tk1324cr-preference-shares-govt-1364536>

Economy & Industry

India looks to new steel export markets

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- India is seeking new steel export markets in the Middle East and Asia to offset the impact of the European Union’s carbon tax that took effect in January, a government source said.
- India, the world’s second-biggest producer of crude steel, ships roughly two-thirds of its steel exports to Europe, where flows have come under pressure following the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.
- Last week, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said the government would have to take action to support exports hit by Europe’s carbon tax.
- “For exports, we are looking at new markets and we are trying to get agreements with countries in the Middle East where a lot of infrastructure is coming up, and also in Asia,” said the source directly involved in decision-making, declining to be identified as the deliberations are confidential.
- “Till now, our exports were focussed on Europe but we are trying to diversify,” the source added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/india-looks-new-steel-export-markets-4108591>

Dollar holds gains in thin trading

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- The dollar held gains on Tuesday as markets awaited signals, expected later this week, about the potential timing of rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.
- The yen trimmed losses from a day earlier when worse-than-expected Japanese economic data stirred expectations that the government would ramp up stimulus. The Aussie dollar edged lower after minutes from the Reserve Bank of Australia showed policymakers were in no rush to raise rates.
- Trading was thin with many markets in Asia closed for the Lunar New Year holiday and following the President’s Day holiday in the US. Key economic events lie later in the week, with minutes from the Fed’s last meeting and advance figures on US gross domestic product.
- “We’re quite positive on the US economy,” said Kristina Clifton, senior currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. “The market is currently pricing a high chance of a June interest rate cut, which is also our view. However, we differ from the market in that we expect a follow-up cut in July.”
- “We judge that the most important driver of the dollar through 2026 will be the narrative of US exceptionalism,” she added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dollar-holds-gains-thin-trading-4108586>

International

Gold slides over 2% on strong dollar

The Daily Star, Feb 18, 2026

- Gold dropped more than 2 percent on Tuesday, as holidays in major markets hit liquidity, while a stronger dollar and easing geopolitical tensions added to the pressure.
- Spot gold dropped 1.5 percent to \$4,917.90 per ounce by 0800 GMT after hitting \$4,862 per ounce, its lowest level in more than a week. US gold futures for April delivery lost 2.2 percent to \$4,936.60 per ounce.
- “Thin liquidity with the holidays in the last 24 hours, especially in China and Asia, but also obviously in the United States too, means we just lacked a bid in the market,” said Kyle Rodda, senior market analyst at Capital.com.
- Mainland Chinese, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea markets are closed for the Lunar New Year holidays. US markets were shut on Monday for Presidents’ Day.
- The US dollar index rose 0.3 percent against a basket of currencies, making greenback-priced bullion more expensive for holders of other currencies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-slides-over-2-strong-dollar-4108646>

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by Bank Asia Securities Ltd (BASL) based on publicly available data for information purpose only and does not solicit any action based on the material contained herein and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation to buy or sell or subscribe to any security. Neither BASL nor any of its directors, shareholders, member of the management or employee represents or warrants expressly or impliedly that the information or data of the sources used in the documents are genuine, accurate, complete, authentic and correct. However, all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this document. BASL or Research & Development Department will not take any responsibility for any decisions made based on the information herein. As this document has been made for the Traders of BASL and strongly prohibited for circulation to any clients, investors or any other persons from outside of BASL.

About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

BASL Research Team

Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury
Head of Research & Investments tushar@basl-bd.com

Mr. Shohidul Islam
Research Analyst shohidul@basl-bd.com

Supervised by:
Mr. Sumon Das, Chief Executive Officer

BASL Network

Head Office

Hadi Mansion (2nd Floor)
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-02-9515826-28
E-mail: info@basl-bd.com

Dhanmondi Branch

Meher Plaza (1st Floor),
House # 13/A, Road # 05
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1207
Phone: +8802-44611923-24

Mirpur Branch

Nishi Plaza, plot # 01,
Avenue-04, Section-06,
Block-C
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216
Phone: +8802-5805449,
48032449

Uttara Branch

House # 79/A, (4th Floor),
Road # 07, Sector # 04
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-
1230
Phone: +88-02-
48958389,48958371

Banani Branch

Nur Empori, Plot # 77 (1st
Floor), Road No # 11,
Banani,
Dhaka-1213
Phone: +88028836155,
8836849

Nikunja Branch

DSE Tower, Level 10, Room#
200, Nikunja, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +8809666702070

Chattogram Branch

Bank Asia Bhaban (3rd
Floor)
39, Agrabad Commercial
Area
Chattogram-4001
Tel : +8801730338091

Khulna Branch

28, Sir Iqbal Road (1st Floor)
Khulna
Phone: +88-041-731208-9

Bogura Digital Booth

Jamil Shopping Center (3rd
Floor), 288/325 Rangpur
Road,
Bogura City Corporation,
Bogura Sadar, Bogura.

Rajshahi Digital Booth

Chamber Bhaban(2nd
Floor), Station Road , Alokhar
Moor,
Rajshahi-6100.

For International Trade & Sales, please call at +8801993111666, +880 02 9515826, Ext: 101 at Business hour. For further query, write to us at research@basl-bd.com.