

## Key News

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## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks slip back as selling pressure returns

The Business Standard, May 17, 2026

- Stocks opened the week on a negative note as renewed selling pressure dragged down key indices on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (17 May), reversing gains from the previous three sessions amid the absence of strong market catalysts.
- The benchmark DSEX index plunged 19 points to settle at 5,226, while the blue-chip DS30 index declined 11 points to close at 1,970.
- Market breadth remained negative, with 228 issues declining compared to 119 advancing and 45 remaining unchanged, reflecting a broadly bearish sentiment among investors.
- Turnover also took a hit, dropping by 13% to Tk868 crore, indicating reduced participation as cautious investors opted to stay on the sidelines.
- According to EBL Securities PLC, the market retraced into correction territory after a brief recovery phase, as sustained selling in major stocks continued to weigh on overall sentiment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-slip-back-selling-pressure-returns-1441821>

### Pragati Insurance moves into credit bureau sector

The Business Standard, May 17, 2026

- Pragati Insurance PLC, one of Bangladesh's leading general insurers, is set to diversify its investment portfolio by entering the emerging private credit bureau sector, according to a price sensitive disclosure issued on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- In a board decision, the insurer approved an investment of Tk3 crore in the proposed First National Credit Bureau Limited (FNCBL), which will give the company a 30% ownership stake.
- The credit bureau is currently awaiting a formal operating licence from Bangladesh Bank.
- The move marks a significant strategic shift for the insurer as it seeks to capitalise on the central bank's initiative to modernise the country's financial infrastructure.
- Following the disclosure, shares of Pragati Insurance PLC saw a marginal correction on the DSE, declining 0.83% to close at Tk71.90.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pragati-insurance-moves-credit-bureau-sector-1441826>

## Royal Footwear again seeks Tk12cr via SME platform to boost exports

The Business Standard, May 17, 2026

- Royal Footwear Limited, a footwear manufacturing and export-oriented company, is planning to raise Tk12 crore from the capital market through the SME platform to support its business expansion and meet rising export demand.
- The company has recently re-submitted its application to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to issue 1.2 crore shares under the fixed-price method through an Initial Qualified Investor Offer (IQIO).
- Earlier, in 2024, Royal Footwear had applied for the same fundraising plan. However, the company later withdrew its Initial Qualified Investor Offer (QIO) proposal, citing political uncertainty, the ongoing economic slowdown, and an overall unstable business environment that was not favourable for expansion at that time.
- As the business climate has improved now, the company has decided to revive its fundraising plan and move forward with the application again to support its expansion and take advantage of growing export opportunities.
- As a synthetic shoe manufacturer, Royal Footwear intends to utilise the funds for business expansion, working capital, and loan repayment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/royal-footwear-again-seeks-tk12cr-sme-platform-boost-exports-1441801>

## Bangladesh Finance continues recovery with 120pc profit jump

The Financial Express, May 18, 2026

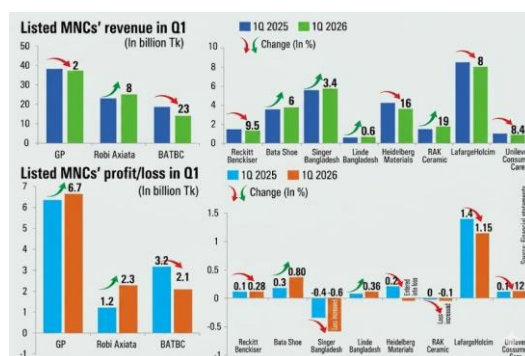
- Non-bank financial institution Bangladesh Finance posted a 120 per cent year-on-year jump in first-quarter profit to Tk 20.71 million, supported by higher investment income and the reversal of provisions.
- Its earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 0.11 for the January-March quarter from Tk 0.05 in the same period a year earlier.
- Bangladesh Finance, formerly known as BD Finance, has been operating in the country for more than 25 years, serving the SME, retail and corporate segments.
- Once considered a highly profitable firm, the company slipped into losses in 2023, reporting a loss of around Tk 1 billion. The loss further widened to Tk 7.83 billion in 2024.
- The sharp losses stemmed mainly from a surge in non-performing loans, forcing the company to maintain hefty provisions against classified loans, leases and capital market exposure. Rising fund costs, stagnant investment activities and broader macroeconomic pressures also weighed on its financial performance.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bangladesh-finance-continues-recovery-with-120pc-profit-jump>

## Listed foreign firms' Q1 earnings slump amid stubborn inflation, energy disruptions

The Financial Express, May 18, 2026

- This year has so far brought no relief to listed multinational companies (MNCs), with earnings declining in the first quarter compared to the same period last year as inflation has not let up.
- Persistently high inflation, squeezing consumer demand, and rising operating costs due to increases in the costs of raw materials and energy have complicated the business environment for foreign firms operating in Bangladesh.
- This is the backdrop to subdued economic activity. Sluggishness in business has been deepening since the changeover in August 2024, while inflationary pressure has continued to erode consumers' purchasing power and corporate profitability, according to market analysts.
- During the January-March quarter, things turned worse amid geopolitical tensions surrounding the US-Israel conflict involving Iran, which disrupted global energy supply chains.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/listed-foreign-firms-q1-earnings-slump-amid-stubborn-inflation-energy-disruptions>

## Economy & Industry

### Bangladesh ranks second globally with 17 IMO-authorised ship recycling yards

The Business Standard, May 18, 2026

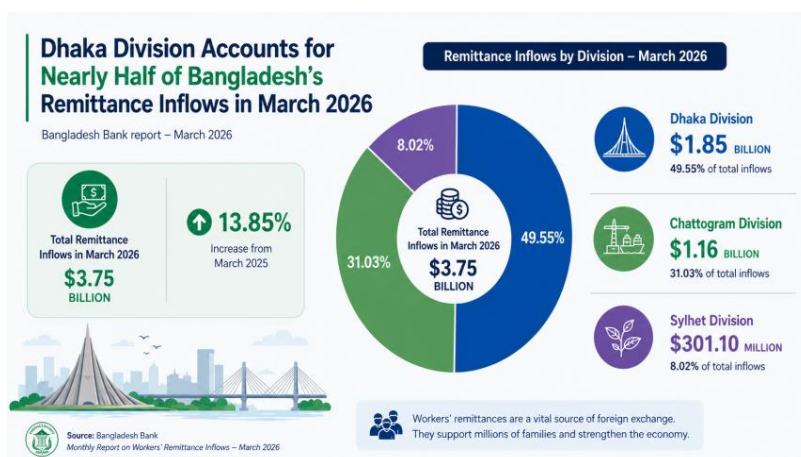
- Bangladesh has become the world's second-largest nation for compliant ship recycling following the inclusion of 17 domestic yards in the International Maritime Organisation's official global list under the Hong Kong Convention.
- The recognition marks a major milestone in the country's transformation from one of the world's most criticised shipbreaking destinations into a leading hub for environmentally compliant recycling after years of investment in environmental safeguards, worker safety and modern recycling infrastructure.
- According to the IMO list, Turkey ranks first globally with 18 authorised facilities, while Bangladesh follows in second position with 17 yards. Japan and Norway each have seven facilities, Denmark has five, Spain has two, and Germany and Belgium each have one. No facilities from regional peers India or Pakistan were included in the list.
- According to an IMO document published on 15 January 2026, all 17 approved facilities are located in the Sitakunda industrial belt of Chattogram, the country's primary shipbreaking hub, and have received formal authorisation from the Bangladesh Ship Recycling Board with validity until 29 October 2030.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bangladesh-ranks-second-globally-17-imo-authorised-ship-recycling-yards-1441936>

### Dhaka division receives half of Bangladesh's March remittance: Central Bank report

The Daily Star, May 18, 2026

- Dhaka division received nearly half of Bangladesh's total remittance inflows in March 2026, ahead of Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) report.
- The division accounted for \$1.85 billion, or 49.55 percent of the \$3.75 billion that flowed in during the month — up \$456.58 million, or 13.85 percent, from March 2025.
- Chattogram division ranked second with \$1.16 billion (31.03 percent), followed by Sylhet at \$301.10 million (8.02 percent), according to BB's Monthly Report on Workers' Remittance Inflows.
- BB noted that inflows typically rise during religious festivals, at the end of the fiscal year in June, and at the close of the calendar year in December.
- At the district level, Dhaka topped the list with \$1.35 billion, ahead of Chattogram (\$413.04 million), Cumilla (\$243.40 million), and Sylhet (\$161.13 million).



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-division-receives-half-bangladeshs-march-remittance-central-bank-report-4177731>

## International

### New Zealand assures post-LDC trade access for Bangladesh

The Daily Star, May 17, 2026

- New Zealand will continue the duty-free market access for Bangladeshi merchandise and the preferential market access even after the country graduates from the least developed country (LDC) category, said David Pine, non-resident high commissioner of New Zealand to Bangladesh.
- He shared the information at a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir at the latter's secretariat office in Dhaka.
- At the meeting, both countries also showed interest in exploring the possibility of signing a trade deal, such as a free trade agreement (FTA), to boost investment and bilateral trade, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.
- Muktadir said employment generation and rapid growth of investment are important for the country's sustainable LDC graduation.
- The minister said it is also important to maintain the competitiveness of garment exports and ensure preferential market access for the country's main apparel items.
- He also requested the high commissioner to encourage entrepreneurs from his country to choose Bangladesh as an investment destination, as the Bangladesh government has taken many measures to ease doing business.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/new-zealand-assures-post-ldc-trade-access-bangladesh-4177831>

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## 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).

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