BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

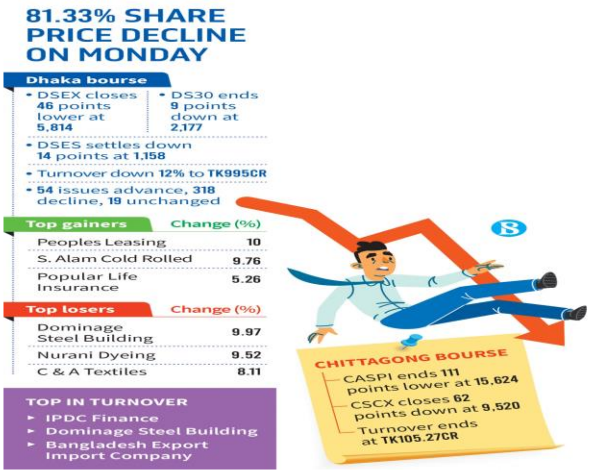
Key News

Stock Market & Company

Margin rule fog deepens sell-off, stocks slide for 4th day

The Business Standard, Aug 17, 2026

- Dhaka stocks extended their losing streak to a fourth consecutive session today (17 August), as lingering uncertainty over the final shape of margin lending rules triggered fresh selling pressure. Concerns over corporate earnings amid weak domestic economic conditions added to the downbeat sentiment.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell 46 points to close at 5,814. The DS30 index shed 9 points to settle at 2,177, while the DSES index slipped 14 points to 1,158.
- Turnover dropped 12% from the previous session to Tk995 crore, reflecting a pullback in overall trading activity as investors turned more cautious.
- Of the 391 issues traded, 318 declined, 54 advanced, and 19 remained unchanged.



- EBL Securities, in its daily market commentary, said the market faced a sharp sell-off as the lack of clarity over potential changes to the margin lending rules continued to weigh on sentiment. This uncertainty compounded existing concerns about weaker corporate earnings amid prevailing domestic economic conditions.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/margin-rule-fog-deepens-sell-stocks-slide-4th-day-1517886

Sonali Life settles Tk405cr in claims in 2025

The Business Standard, Aug 17, 2026

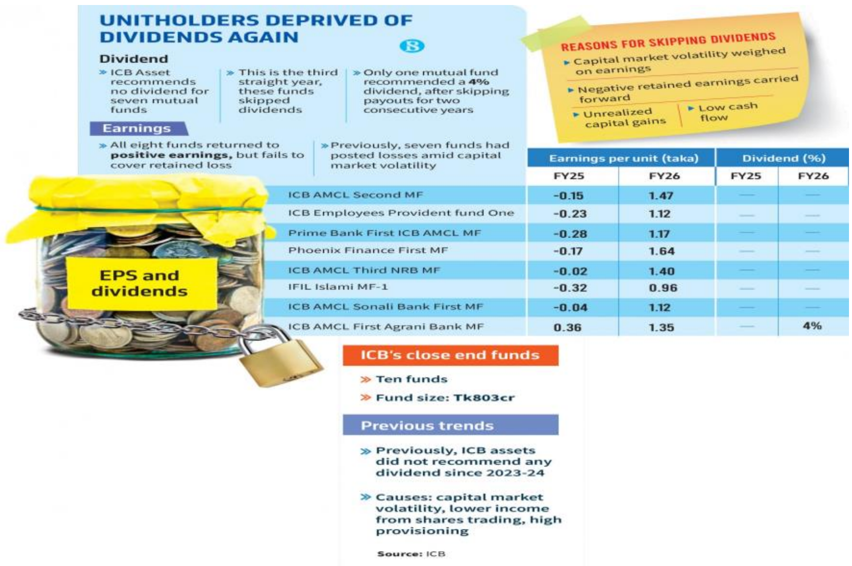
- Sonali Life Insurance settled 55,300 insurance claims worth Tk405.15 crore in 2025, while declaring a 15% cash dividend to its shareholders for the year.
- The dividend was approved at a recent meeting of the company's board of directors held at its head office in Malibagh Chowdhury Para in the capital.
- The company said it has maintained the momentum in claims settlement this year as well. As of July 2026, Sonali Life had settled insurance claims worth approximately Tk259 crore.
- The company's share price rose 1.90% on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (17 August).

- Sonali Life said it has maintained a 100% claim settlement record since inception, attributing the performance to faster data verification, automated processes and paperless internal monitoring that have shortened settlement times.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonali-life-settles-tk405cr-claims-2025-1517881

Why ICB Asset funds skip dividends despite earnings rebound in FY26

The Business Standard, Aug 17, 2026

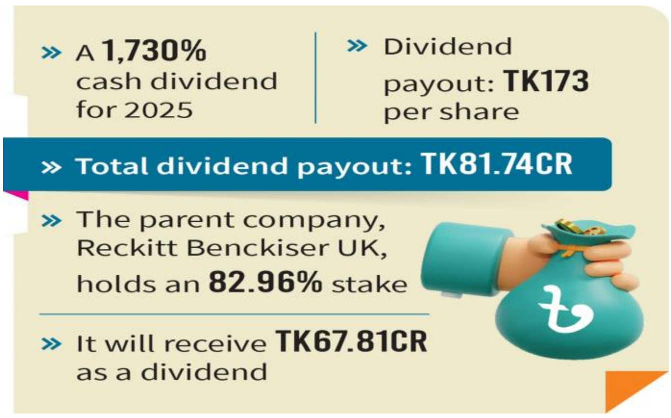


- ICB Asset Management Company, a subsidiary of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), has skipped dividend payouts for seven of its managed mutual funds for the third consecutive year despite a significant earnings rebound in FY26.
- The trustee committee declared zero dividends for the seven funds at a meeting on Sunday, leaving their unitholders without payouts for another year.
- The funds had previously skipped dividends amid weak earnings caused by volatility in the capital market. However, the ICB AMCL First Agrani Bank Mutual Fund declared a 4% dividend after posting a profit and maintaining positive retained earnings, according to ICB officials.
- They said losses accumulated in previous years had left the retained earnings of the other funds negative, limiting their ability to distribute dividends despite improved earnings in FY26.
- The domestic stock market remained volatile in recent years due to various factors, including national elections and geopolitical tensions, the officials said. Although the market recovered towards the end of FY26, generating capital gains for the funds, much of those gains remained unrealised and did not generate sufficient cash flow.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-icb-asset-funds-skip-dividends-despite-earnings-rebound-fy26-1517891

BSEC extends Reckitt's foreign shareholders dividend payout

The Business Standard, Aug 17, 2026



- Amid delays in tax clearance, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has extended the deadline until September for Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) to disburse dividends to its foreign shareholders.
- The regulator also granted the multinational a waiver from a May 2024 directive requiring listed companies to disburse at least 80% of approved dividends within a stipulated timeframe or face a downgrade to the "Z" category.
- The stock market regulator notified Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) PLC of the decision in a letter dated 10 August, also informing the two stock exchanges.

- When asked about the matter, Md Nazmul Arefin told The Business Standard, "We need to obtain a certificate from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to remit dividends to the company's foreign shareholders."
- "We applied to the NBR, but have yet to receive the certificate. That is why we applied to the commission for a time extension to pay the dividends," he added.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-extends-reckitts-foreign-shareholders-dividend-payout-1517871

CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund-01 unitholders to vote on open-end conversion or redemption

The Financial Express, Aug 17, 2026

- The trustee of CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund-01 has called a special general meeting of its unitholders to consider converting the scheme from a closed-end to an open-end mutual fund, or proceeding with its redemption, according to a stock exchange filing.
- The special meeting is scheduled for 7 October, and the record date for determining unitholders' eligibility to attend and vote has been set for 15 September, the filing said yesterday on the stock exchange's website.
- In accordance with regulations, trading in the fund's units across stock exchanges will be suspended starting on the record date.
- The trustee, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), has also informed that trading in the fund's units on the stock exchanges shall remain suspended from the record date until further notice, or as otherwise communicated by the fund, the disclosure said.
- The move comes under directives set out by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) governing closed-end mutual funds.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/capm-bdbl-mutual-fund-01-unitholders-vote-open-end-conversion-or-redemption-1517876

Economy & Industry

UAE-based Bangladeshis plan to invest Tk 1,000 crore

The Daily Star, Aug 17, 2026

- Bangladeshi expatriate businesspeople and entrepreneurs based in the United Arab Emirates are planning to invest around Tk 1,000 crore in Bangladesh, mainly in technology-driven banking, renewable energy, food processing, tourism, education and healthcare.
- Members of the Bangladesh CIP-Business Association are scheduled to meet the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) on August 18 to discuss the proposed investment, including the investment environment, government support and faster approval processes.
- The expatriate businesspeople disclosed the investment plan at a press conference at the Economic Reporters' Forum in Dhaka today.
- The proposed investments will include digital and AI-based Islamic banking, dry food processing and packaging, e-rental services, solar panels and renewable energy, tourism, education and healthcare, they said in a press release.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/uae-based-bangladeshis-plan-invest-tk-1000-crore-4250046

Shariah-based institutions will get 50% of any sukuk: BB

The Daily Star, Aug 18, 2026

- From now on, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) will allocate half of any sukuk issue to Shariah-based banks, financial institutions and insurance companies.
- A separate 30 percent will be allocated to Islamic branches and windows of conventional banks, the central bank said in a circular overhauling the subscription allocation for Shariah-compliant sukuk bonds.
- Individual investors will get a dedicated 10 percent quota, up from a combined 15 percent they previously shared with provident funds, investment companies and corporate entities, it added.
- Conventional banks, financial institutions and insurance companies, which held a 5 percent share, have now been grouped with provident funds, gratuity funds and mutual funds into a single 10 percent category.
- Istequemal Hussain, director of the Debt Management Department at the BB, said the allocation for sukuk subscriptions was 80 percent for Shariah-based banks and Islamic banking branches and windows of conventional banks.
- “We have separated this through a quota for Shariah-based banks. This is because Shariah-based banks cannot subscribe to conventional bonds and treasury bills, whereas conventional banks can,” he said.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/soybean-can-cut-import-dependence-bridge-protein-gap-4250221

International

Indian delegation in Dhaka to explore trade, investment

The Daily Star, Aug 18, 2026

- A 14-member delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is now in Bangladesh to explore opportunities for trade, investment and industrial cooperation with Bangladesh.
- They arrived in Dhaka yesterday and will stay until Wednesday, according to the High Commission of India in Dhaka.
- Led by CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, the delegation includes senior representatives from Indian companies in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, engineering, automobiles, manufacturing and energy, the high commission said.
- The delegation includes representatives from Bharat Biotech, Infravision Foundation, Godrej Industries, Arvind Limited, LMW Global, Mahindra Group, Larsen & Toubro, Forbes Marshall, Numaligarh Refinery, Apollo Hospitals and Indian Oil Corporation.
- The delegation is scheduled to meet senior government officials, including Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam.
- It will also hold discussions with Bangladeshi business leaders, including the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), which is hosting a luncheon for the delegation. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo will attend the event as chief guest.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/indian-delegation-dhaka-explore-trade-investment-4250236

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