

Key News

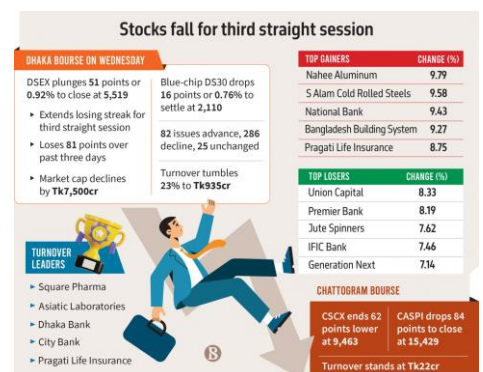
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Stock Market & Company

Post-election optimism fades as markets slide for third day

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- Stocks continued their losing streak for a third consecutive session today (18 February), as cautious investors trimmed positions despite the formation of a new government following the 13th parliamentary election.
- The benchmark DSEX of the Dhaka Stock Exchange PLC fell 51 points, or 0.92%, to close at 5,519, marking a three-day decline of 81 points.
- Market capitalisation dropped by around Tk7,500 crore, reflecting broad-based selling pressure. The DS30 index of blue-chip stocks also fell 16 points, or 0.76%, to settle at 2,110.
- Market breadth remained heavily negative, with 286 issues declining, 82 advancing, and 25 unchanged. Turnover tumbled 23% to Tk935 crore, indicating reduced investor participation amid mounting uncertainty.
- The market slide comes after the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured victory in the 13th parliamentary election and took oath yesterday (17 February).



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/post-election-optimism-fades-markets-slide-third-day-1365621>

Brokers congratulate Tarique Rahman and Finance Minister Amir Khasru

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA), an association of brokerage houses, has congratulated Tarique Rahman on being elected Prime Minister of Bangladesh following the absolute and historic victory of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).
- The association, led by its President Saiful Islam, conveyed the congratulations and extended greetings and best wishes to all the respected members of the newly formed cabinet.
- The DBA also congratulated Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury on assuming office as minister of finance and planning, and Zonayed Saki on being appointed state minister for finance and planning.
- In the statement, Saiful Islam expressed strong optimism that under Tarique Rahman's leadership, the implementation of the slogan "Bangladesh First" would bring about necessary reforms at all levels, fulfil the aspirations of the people, and lead the country toward overall prosperity.

- The DBA believes that ensuring sustainable economic development requires building a strong, transparent, and accountable financial sector along with a trust-based and sustainable capital market.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-congratulate-tarique-rahman-and-finance-minister-amir-khasru-1365666>

BSEC seeks safeguards for small investors in bank mergers, NBFi liquidations

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has formally urged the government to safeguard the interests of general investors as the financial sector undergoes a major restructuring involving the merger of five banks and the liquidation of nine non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).
- In two separate letters sent on 10 February to the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry, the capital market regulator argued that small and retail shareholders bear no responsibility for the governance failures or financial crises currently plaguing these listed entities.
- The BSEC emphasised that ensuring a "minimum financial interest" for these investors is essential before any final decisions on restructuring, mergers, or liquidations are executed.
- The five listed banks that have been merged are First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank. All are listed on the stock exchange and have attracted substantial retail investment.
- According to the BSEC, the combined free-float market capitalisation of the five banks stands at approximately Tk900 crore, with an average free-float shareholding of around 76%.

General investors' shareholding in NBFIs	Free-float market cap (in crore taka)	General shareholding	General investors' shareholding in NBFIs	Free-float market cap (in crore taka)	General shareholding
FAS Finance	18.12	86.80%	First Security Islami Bank	137.37	94.1%
Bangladesh Industrial Finance	8.83	61.65%	Global Islami Bank	91.49	84.57%
Premier Leasing	13.70	79.28%	Social Islami Bank	302.30	88.38%
Fareast Finance	11.71	60.28%	EXIM Bank	302.08	69.56%
GSP Finance	45.19	87.98%	Union Bank	67.62	45.51%
Prime Finance	28.98	40.86%			
People's Leasing	30.69	81.85%			
International Leasing	18.15	58.45%			

BSEC's concerns and proposals	
 Transparent liquidation framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear trade suspension communication • Realistic asset valuation • Shareholder value protection
 Compensation arrangement inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidiary clarification • Engage regulators in government discussions • Mandatory ongoing disclosure

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-seeks-safeguards-small-investors-bank-mergers-nbfi-liquidations-1365646>

S Alam Cold Rolled Steels shares jump 50% in February

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- Shares of S Alam Cold Rolled Steels Limited surged 9.59% today (18 February) to close at Tk16 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange PLC (DSE), capping a sharp rally that has seen the stock gain 50% so far in February.
- Since 1 February, the company's share price climbed from Tk10.7 to Tk16 as of today, despite ongoing operational and financial challenges. Yesterday (17 February) saw some 14.31 lakh shares traded, with a turnover of Tk2.23 crore.
- The rally comes even after the DSE downgraded the company from "B" to "Z" category on 4 January 2026 under a directive of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). The downgrade followed the company's failure to hold its annual general meeting within the stipulated timeframe.
- In line with another BSEC directive, stockbrokers and merchant bankers have been instructed to refrain from providing margin loan facilities to purchase the company's shares from the same date.
- Company officials have attributed the non-holding annual general meeting due to the absence of its directors. They also reported operational disruptions due to raw material shortages, caused by difficulties in opening letters of credit as banks were uncooperative.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-cold-rolled-steels-shares-jump-50-february-1365636>

Economy & Industry

MEP Group to invest Tk 200 crore in Mirsarai economic zone

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- MEP Hi-Tech Industrial Park Limited, a concern of MEP Group, will invest Tk 200 crore to set up a modern electrical and electronic products manufacturing facility on nearly 10 acres of land at the National Special Economic Zone in Chattogram.
- A land lease agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and MEP Hi-Tech Industrial Park Limited at Beza's office in Dhaka's Agargaon today, according to a press release.
- The factory will produce electrical wires, switches and sockets, fans, LED lights, circuit breakers, and other related products, aiming to reduce the country's reliance on imports and expand local manufacturing capacity.
- Established in 1974, MEP Hi-Tech Industrial Park Limited is a business conglomerate with around 2,000 corporate clients and more than 1,000 distribution networks nationwide.
- Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in April 2026 and is expected to be completed by December 2028, with commercial production targeted for January 2029.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mep-group-invest-tk-200-crore-mirsarai-economic-zone-4109166>

Forex reserves to hit \$40 billion by year-end: Governor

The Business Standard, Feb 18, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur on Wednesday said that the foreign exchange reserve is projected to reach US \$40 billion within this year.
- Talking to reporters at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the Governor shared an optimistic trajectory for the country's financial health.
- He said the reserves are expected to cross the \$35 billion mark within the current month, building a stronger foundation for the months ahead.
- Dr Mansur acknowledged that the banking and financial sectors have faced massive irregularities in the past, which would take time to fully rectify.
- He, however, expressed confidence in the ongoing reform initiatives taken by the current interim government. "The fragility of the economy has not been entirely eliminated yet, but the situation is moving toward stability."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/forex-reserves-hit-40-billion-year-end-governor-1365426>

International

Exports to China look dismal,' leader of busiest US seaport says

The Daily Star, Feb 18, 2026

- Exports from the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest US gateway for ocean trade, fell 8 percent in January to the lowest monthly output in nearly three years, Executive Director Gene Seroka said on Tuesday.
- "Exports to China look dismal," Seroka said after the Port of Los Angeles handled 104,297 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of loaded export containers in January.
- President Trump's aggressive use of tariffs has upended global trade and retaliatory trade duties from China and other nations have hit US exporters like farmers particularly hard.

- Soybean shipments from the Port of Los Angeles to China dropped 80 percent last year, Seroka said, adding that the trade did not improve in November or December, following discussions between representatives of the two nations on the sidelines at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit.
- "There's not much that the United States is exporting to China these days," said trade expert Chad Bown, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute of Economics, who added that outgoing US shipments of everything from beef and corn to crude oil and coal also fell in 2025.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exports-china-look-dismal-leader-busiest-us-seaport-says-4109151>

Oil prices fall back as 'hopeful' Tehran responds to Trump

The Daily Star, Feb 18, 2026

- Shares vacillated and oil prices dropped back down Tuesday as Tehran gave an encouraging response during talks with US officials in Geneva on Iran's nuclear programme, after days of escalating rhetoric from President Donald Trump.
- Oil prices had earlier risen after Trump ramped up threats towards Iran, a large crude producer, but Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said "a new window of opportunity has opened."
- "We are hopeful that negotiation will lead to a sustainable and negotiated solution," he said, though he added that "Iran remains fully prepared to defend itself against any threat or act of aggression."
- West Texas Intermediate was down 0.9 percent at \$62.33 per barrel after earlier rising 1.5 percent, while international benchmark Brent North Sea Crude slipped 1.8 percent to \$67.42.
- "There's speculation that Iran could agree to dilute its most highly enriched uranium in exchange for the full lifting of financial sanctions, but it's not clear if that will be enough to seal a deal between the two parties," said Aarin Chiekrie, analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-prices-fall-back-hopeful-tehran-responds-trump-4108981>

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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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