

## Key News

[DSE, BRAC EPL signs agreement to launch Sajida Orange Bond through electronic subscription system](#)

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## Stock Market & Company

### [DSE, BRAC EPL signs agreement to launch Sajida Orange Bond through electronic subscription system](#)

The Business Standard, May 18, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and BRAC EPL Investments today (18 May) signed an agreement to facilitate subscription of the Sajida Orange Zero-Coupon Bond to mobilise capital specifically for women-focused economic empowerment and gender-inclusive development through the bourse's Electronic Subscription System (ESS).
- The subscription process began on 18 May and will continue until 23 May, allowing eligible investors to participate through the DSE platform.
- The bond, issued by development organisation Sajida Foundation, received approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission in March this year to raise Tk158.5 crore through private placement.
- Designed as a social impact financing instrument, the zero-coupon bond aims to fund women-focused economic empowerment initiatives and expand access to inclusive financing.
- According to the DSE, Tk75.73 crore of the total bond value has been allocated for eligible investors through the subscription process.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-brac-epl-signs-agreement-launch-sajida-orange-bond-through-electronic>

### [DSE to remain closed from 25-31 May for Eid holidays](#)

The Business Standard, May 18, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange has announced an updated schedule for its office and trading operations in line with the government-declared Eid-ul-Adha holiday period.
- According to the announcement, the DSE will continue its regular office and trading activities on Saturday, 23 May and Sunday, 24 May following normal trading hours.
- The exchange will then remain closed from 25 to 31 May due to the official Eid-ul-Adha holidays.
- Normal trading and office operations will resume on 1 June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-remain-closed-25-31-may-eid-holidays-1442776>

### [Rupali Bank slips into loss in Q1 as earnings plunge](#)

The Financial Express, May 18, 2026

- Rupali Bank PLC reported a sharp decline in earnings in the first quarter of 2026, slipping into a significant loss due to lower operating income amid ongoing pressure in the banking sector.

- According to its unaudited financial statements published on Monday, the state-owned commercial bank posted a consolidated loss per share of Tk 8.12 for the January-March quarter of 2026, compared to earnings per share of Tk 0.13 in the same period last year.
- The bank's diluted consolidated loss per share, considering share money deposits, stood at Tk 3.39 for the first quarter, against diluted earnings per share of Tk 0.06 a year earlier.
- Its consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS), however, increased substantially to Tk 15.83 for January-March 2026 from Tk 6.62 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- The diluted consolidated NOCFPS also rose to Tk 6.61 from Tk 2.77 over the same period.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/rupali-bank-slips-into-loss-in-q1-as-earnings-plunge1523>

## Economy & Industry

### 'Govt committed to capital market reforms'

The Daily Sun, May 18, 2026

- Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Investment and Capital Markets Tanvir Gani has said the government is committed to strengthening reforms and ensuring stability in the country's stock market, adding that all initiatives will be implemented in phases.
- He made the remarks after a meeting on Thursday with senior officials of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) at its head office in Agargaon, Dhaka.
- The meeting, with BSEC Chairman Khondoker Rashed Maqsood in the chair, reviewed the current state of the capital market, ongoing reform initiatives and future development plans.
- BSEC Commissioners Mohsin Chowdhury, Ali Akbar, Farzana Lalarukh and Saifuddin, along with senior commission officials, were also present.
- According to a press release signed by BSEC Director and Spokesperson Abul Kalam, the commission provided detailed briefings on its role, operational activities, institutional structure, market ecosystem and regulatory framework.

<https://www.daily-sun.com/stock-market/869280>

### WB okays \$350m financing for Bangladesh's LNG-based energy security

The Daily Star, May 18, 2026

- The World Bank has approved \$350 million in financing to strengthen Bangladesh's energy security by supporting cost-effective mechanisms for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG), as global fuel markets face volatility.
- The financing was approved on May 15 under the Energy Sector Security Enhancement Project, according to a press release.
- The additional financing will help strengthen Bangladesh's energy security by facilitating cost-effective mechanisms to import LNG amid global fuel market volatility, it said.
- It will scale up support to cover payments for LNG imports by Petrobangla, the state-owned oil and gas company, it added.
- Bangladesh relies on imported LNG to meet electricity demand, particularly for power generation and industrial production. Disruptions in global energy markets due to the conflict in the Middle East have heightened price volatility and supply risks, placing pressure on foreign exchange reserves and public finances.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-okays-350m-financing-bangladeshs-lng-based-energy-security-4178656>

## Policy uncertainty major barrier to investment in Bangladesh: World Bank

The Financial Express, May 18, 2026

- Policy uncertainty remains one of the key barriers hindering both local and foreign direct investment, which are essential for economic growth and job creation in Bangladesh.
- “The number one reason over the past few years has been policy uncertainty,” said Dhruv Sharma while delivering the keynote presentation titled ‘Bangladesh Development Update: Special Focus – A Business Environment that Delivers Jobs’.
- “One cannot make a long-term decision about what to do with his or her firm without knowing the direction of policy,” he said, adding that the national election held last February had removed uncertainty, which he described as another major barrier to attracting investment.
- He noted that the high cost of capital, distorted tax incentives, lack of transparency, and supply chain and infrastructure challenges — including access to power, electricity and water — were among the other major obstacles.
- Sharma said the government would release its five-year strategic framework soon, while the national budget is expected within the next couple of weeks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/policy-uncertainty-major-barrier-to-investment-in-bangladesh-world-bank>

## International

### Oil rises, Asian stocks sink on US-Iran deadlock

The Business Standard, May 18, 2026

- Most Asian shares were lower in morning trade today (18 May), extending slides in global markets, as the impasse in the Middle East drove oil prices more than 2% higher.
- Washington and Tehran agreed to a truce in April, but negotiations on ending the conflict have stalled and sporadic attacks in the region have continued.
- US President Donald Trump issued a fresh warning to Iran yesterday, saying it had to move quickly towards a peace deal or "there won't be anything left of them".
- The war has led to an effective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20% of global oil exports pass in peacetime. The strait "remains meaningfully closed -- now approaching eleven weeks -- after the Trump-Xi summit in Beijing concluded without a breakthrough on reopening the waterway", MUFG's Michael Wan said today.
- Tokyo shares lost 1% and Hong Kong was down 1.4%, while Shanghai was flat. Sydney, Bangkok, Taipei, Singapore and Wellington also fell, with Jakarta tumbling 2.7%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/global-economy/asian-stocks-sink-oil-rises-us-iran-deadlock-1442036>

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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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