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Stock Market & Company

DSEX edges down as sell-off continues for second session

The Financial Express, Oct 18, 2026

- Stocks on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued their decline for a second straight session today (18 October) amid persistent selling pressure, cautious investor sentiment, and ongoing corporate earnings and dividend disclosures.
- The benchmark DSEX index fell 10 points to 5,422, while the blue-chip DS30 index shed 4 points to 2,085.
- Turnover stood at Tk365 crore amid subdued trading. Of the issues traded, 217 declined, 102 advanced and 67 remained unchanged.
- EBL Securities said in its daily market review that investors largely stayed on the sidelines amid ongoing earnings and dividend announcements, with uncertainty over the market's near-term direction weighing on confidence. Profit-booking following recent bargain hunting triggered early selling, while intermittent buying support failed to reverse the trend.
- A DSE official, speaking on condition of anonymity, attributed the low turnover partly to technical arrangements to test the exchange's disaster recovery server. Weak network connectivity also dampened trading activity, although the official said brokers had been notified in advance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-edges-down-sell-continues-second-session-1576906>

BSEC closes proceedings against investor Zhuang Lifeng

The Business Standard, Oct 17, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has disposed of enforcement proceedings against investor Zhuang Lifeng over alleged non-compliance with securities laws, according to a regulatory order.
- The case stemmed from a show-cause and hearing notice issued on 6 January 2026, which was later rescheduled to 11 March. Zhuang, who holds a Beneficiary Owner (BO) account with Prime Bank Securities Limited, submitted written explanations and a supplementary response letter, and appeared at a hearing on 20 April.
- After reviewing the facts, allegations and submissions, the commission decided to dispose of the proceedings. It clarified, however, that the decision does not relieve the investor of any lawful obligations or liabilities to affected parties arising from default.
- Meanwhile, in a separate enforcement action issued on 13 October, the BSEC imposed a cumulative fine of Tk35.92 lakh on merchant bank CBC Capital and Equity Management Ltd, a corporate provident fund, and three individuals for series trading and price manipulation of Taufika Foods and Lovello Ice-Cream PLC shares.
- A Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) probe found that CBC Capital operated an interconnected network of BO accounts alongside Zhuang Lifeng, owner of Liz Fashion Industry Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-closes-proceedings-against-investor-zhuang-lifeng-1576916>

CAL Bangladesh recommends five banks with up to 81% share price upside

The Business Standard, Oct 18, 2026

- CAL Bangladesh has recommended five listed banks – BRAC Bank, City Bank, Eastern Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank and Pubali Bank – as its top picks, projecting share price upside of 44% to 81% as banking sector reforms create opportunities for stronger lenders to expand credit and gain market share.
- In its research report titled "Banking on the Next Cycle", the investment research firm identified 14 "Cycle-Ready" banks based on asset quality, capital adequacy, funding strength and lending capacity.
- It said these banks are better positioned to withstand the sector's ongoing balance-sheet adjustments and benefit from a recovery in credit demand.
- BRAC Bank leads the recommendations, with a target price of Tk117.45 against its closing price of Tk65 on 5 October 2026, implying potential upside of 80.7%. City Bank has a target price of Tk48.36, suggesting a 62.8% gain from Tk29.70.
- Eastern Bank's target price of Tk34.38 indicates 50.8% upside from Tk22.80, while Dutch-Bangla Bank could gain 47.8% to reach Tk67.25 from Tk45.50. Pubali Bank has a target price of Tk55.88, implying 44% upside from Tk38.80. The projections exclude cash dividend yields.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/cal-bangladesh-recommends-five-banks-81-share-price-upside-1576911>

Walton High-Tech sets unique precedent in cash dividend distribution

The Business Standard, Oct 18, 2026

- Walton High-Tech Industries PLC, the country's tech giant listed in the engineering sector on the capital market, has set a unique precedent by disbursing its approved cash dividend to investors just one day after holding its annual general meeting (AGM).
- According to a press release, the company distributed a 180% cash dividend to institutional and general investors for the 2025-26 financial year immediately following approval.
- The disclosure came after Walton High-Tech successfully conducted its 20th AGM on a digital platform on 15 October 2026, where shareholders unanimously approved the board's proposal for a 180% cash dividend and a 10% stock dividend.
- Walton's Deputy Managing Director and Company Secretary Rafiqul Islam stated that the rapid payout was made possible by the company's technological excellence, operational efficiency, and robust liquidity position.
- Under the approved payout, shareholders received Tk18 in cash for each general share with a face value of Tk10, alongside one bonus share for every 10 general shares held.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/walton-high-tech-sets-unique-precedent-cash-dividend-distribution-1576891>

BSEC proposes 50% IPO debt repayment cap, mandatory escrow accounts

The Business Standard, Oct 18, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has proposed raising the cap on using initial public offering (IPO) and rights offer (RPO) proceeds to repay existing loans from 30% to 50%. It would also make escrow accounts mandatory to ensure the money goes to its declared purposes.
- Under the draft amendments to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Public Offer of Equity Securities) Rules, 2025, companies would have to undergo pre-IPO verification by a BSEC-listed auditor before applying. The draft also tightens disclosure requirements for share pricing. Stock exchanges would get a 20-day deadline to review IPO applications and inspect companies' factories or business premises.

- The draft was published on 18 October, and the commission has invited comments, suggestions and objections within two weeks. The proposed changes have not yet been finalised.
- Under the existing provision, companies can use up to 30% of their IPO or RPO proceeds to repay existing loans, subject to specified conditions. The proposed amendment would raise the ceiling to 50%.
- This means a company raising Tk100 crore through an IPO or RPO could use up to Tk50 crore to repay eligible loans, subject to the proposed conditions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-proposes-50-ipo-debt-repayment-cap-mandatory-escrow-accounts-1576896>

Economy & Industry

Govt eyes commercial revival of 'Dhakai Muslin': state minister

The Financial Express, Oct 18, 2026

- The government is working to bring the fabled 'Dhakai Muslin' back to commercial production, aiming to revive the heritage fabric, create jobs and open up global markets, State Minister for Textiles and Jute Md Shariful Alam said today.
- Speaking at a seminar in Dhaka, he said research had restored the technology for producing the fabric, which was lost about 170 years ago. The next challenge is to improve the cotton used to make muslin and develop the textile for wider commercial use.
- The seminar, titled "Dhakai Futi Karpas Fiber Genomics and Development", was held at the CIRDAP Auditorium to discuss ways to improve the varieties of Futi Karpas, the cotton used to produce muslin.
- It was organised under the second phase of the project to restore the technology for making muslin yarn and cloth. The Bangladesh Handloom Board is implementing the project under the Ministry of Textiles and Jute.
- "Dhakai Muslin is not just a name; it is a witness to heritage and royal grandeur," Shariful said. "Very soon, the long-awaited Dhakai Muslin, a golden chapter of our history, an inseparable part of our national identity and a saga of glory, will return in full once again."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-eyes-commercial-revival-dhakai-muslin-state-minister-4301911>

Businesses no longer need prior approval for boiler imports

The Daily Star, Oct 18, 2026

- Businesses will no longer need prior approval from the chief boiler inspector to import boilers.
- The industries ministry shared the information through a letter on October 7 to the central bank, and the banking regulator today asked all authorised dealer banks involved in foreign exchange transactions to take necessary action accordingly.
- According to the ministry's letter, the decision was taken at a board meeting as part of efforts to simplify the boiler import process.
- Earlier, on July 14, Bangladesh Bank issued a circular making it mandatory to obtain prior approval from the Office of the Chief Inspector of Boilers to import boilers and boiler components.
- The latest circular communicates the suspension of the prior approval requirement, but the documents do not specify whether the requirement has been permanently scrapped or whether a replacement procedure will be introduced.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-no-longer-need-prior-approval-boiler-imports-4301841>

International

Vietnam signs free trade deal with four EU nations

The Daily Star, Oct 19, 2026

- Vietnam and four European nations outside the EU signed a free trade agreement in Hanoi on Sunday, seeking to diversify their markets as US tariffs disrupt global commerce.
- The deal, between Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economy and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, eliminates or reduces customs duties, including on imports of industrial, fish and agricultural products.
- The deal was signed in the capital in the presence of Vietnam's top leader To Lam and representatives of EFTA governments.
- Vietnam said the agreement showed the parties' resolve to "reinforce the rules-based trading system amid continued volatility in the global economy", according to a government statement.
- It was also expected to help Vietnam "diversify its import and export markets" and "integrate more deeply into global value chains", the government said. Vietnam and EFTA concluded negotiations in July, more than a decade after the free trade talks officially began in 2012.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/vietnam-signs-free-trade-deal-four-eu-nations-4302106>

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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).

BASL Research Team

Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury Head of Research & Investments	tushar@basl-bd.com
Mr. Shohidul Islam Research Analyst	shohidul@basl-bd.com
Mr. Kawser Mohammad Emon Research Associate	emon@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: +8802-58055449,
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 , Alok
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.