

Key News

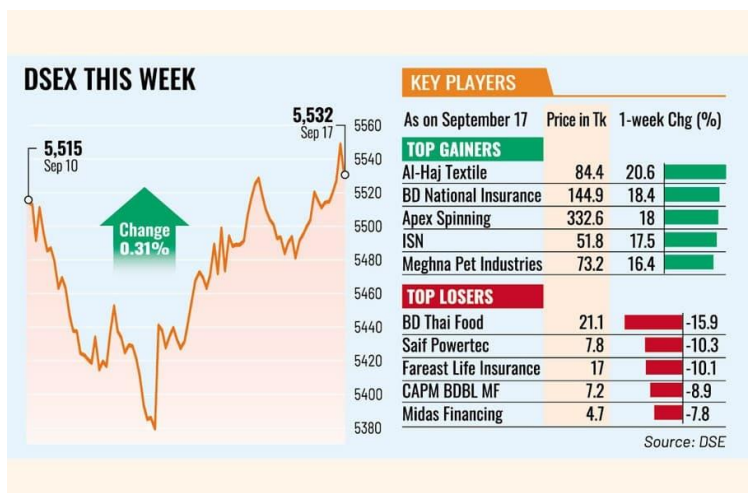
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Stock Market & Company

Stocks recover as gas supply concerns ease

The Financial Express, Sep 19, 2026

- Stocks edged higher this week, reversing the previous week's sharp decline, as government assurances on resolving industrial gas supply constraints and renewed regulatory engagement with leading brokers offered some relief to battered investor sentiment.
- Market operators said the market finally got some breathing space after a prolonged downturn, with bargain hunting emerging across the board as investors regained confidence following the prime minister's assurance that the industrial gas supply problem would be resolved immediately.
- The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) staged a notable turnaround in the latter half of the week, rising for three consecutive sessions as investors picked up beaten-down stocks despite lingering concerns over the market's near-term outlook.
- Investor sentiment was also buoyed by the DSE's move to meet the country's top 30 brokers to discuss the reasons behind the recent market plunge and explore measures to stabilise the market.
- "The government's assurances over industrial gas supplies, coupled with the regulatory engagement with leading brokers, helped restore some confidence following the recent sell-off," said a leading stockbroker.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/stocks-recover-as-gas-supply-concerns-ease>

C&A Textiles faces DSE inspection amid prolonged non-compliance

The Business Standard, Sep 19, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is set to inspect C&A Textiles Limited amid prolonged regulatory non-compliance that has left investors in the dark about the listed textile company's operations and financial position for years.
- At the request of the premier bourse, the capital market regulator, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), approved the inspection in mid-September, according to a letter.

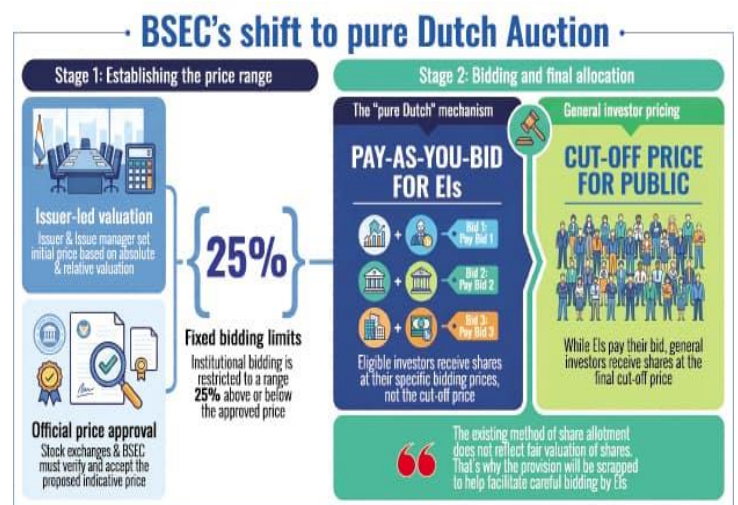
- The move comes as the company has failed to publish its quarterly financial statements for more than two years. According to DSE data, C&A Textiles last published its third-quarter financial statements for the period ending March 2024, leaving investors without subsequent financial information.
- The company's latest operational and financial status also remains unclear, as officials of Alif Group, which took over the troubled company, did not respond to queries.
- A DSE official, seeking anonymity, said the bourse planned to inspect the company to ascertain its current operational status after receiving approval from the capital market regulator.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ca-textiles-faces-dse-inspection-amid-prolonged-non-compliance-1547616>

BSEC to overhaul IPO rules for market-based valuation

The Financial Express, Sep 20, 2026

- The securities regulator will adopt the pure Dutch Auction Method for market-based valuation of primary shares, replacing the existing mechanism under the book-building method.
- Under the current system, 40 per cent of shares are allotted to eligible investors (EIs) at the cut-off price, even if many of them have bid above that price. The new valuation mechanism will require EIs to receive shares at their respective bidding prices.
- "The existing method of share allotment does not reflect fair valuation of shares. That's why the provision will be scrapped to help facilitate careful bidding by EIs," said Masud Khan, chairman of the securities regulator.



- Under the book-building method presently followed, bids are opened with a 25 per cent price band on the indicative price of the shares of a company that is in the process of going public.
- That means institutional bidders can quote prices within 25 per cent below or above the indicative price approved by the regulator. Take, for example, Tk 100 as the indicative price. Bidders would then be allowed to bid between Tk 75 and Tk 125 for the shares of the company seeking to get listed. During the bidding process, if the 40 per cent quota for EIs gets exhausted at Tk 75, all EIs will receive shares at the cut-off price of Tk 75, even if many bidders have quoted prices above the cut-off price, up to Tk 125.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bsec-to-overhaul-ipo-rules-for-market-based-valuation>

Bank mergers alone won't resolve ongoing crisis: MTB CEO

The Business Standard, Sep 19, 2026

- Merging weak banks with other lenders alone will not resolve the ongoing crisis in the banking sector, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank.
- The full extent of this sector's financial distress has yet to emerge, as non-performing loans, capital shortages, provisioning requirements, liquidity pressures and governance weaknesses need to be addressed simultaneously, he said.
- "Giving fresh capital or merging a bank does not automatically make a weak bank sustainable," he said at a discussion, "Financial Condition of the Banking Sector", jointly organised by the Capital Market Journalists Forum and CFA Society Bangladesh in Dhaka today (19 September).

- Mahbubur, former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), said the volume of non-performing loans in the banking sector was around Tk28,000 crore in 2008 but has now exceeded Tk600,000 crore, accounting for more than 32% of total loans.
- Many rescheduled loans could also become classified again in the future, he warned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-mergers-alone-wont-resolve-ongoing-crisis-mtb-ceo-1547621>

Economy & Industry

BAFFA argues against 100% foreign ownership in freight forwarding sector

The Daily Star, Sep 19, 2026

- The Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA) has urged the government not to expand 100 percent foreign ownership in the country's freight forwarding sector without assessing its economic impact on local entrepreneurs, employment and foreign exchange flows.
- The association said freight forwarding is predominantly a service-based industry rather than a capital-intensive sector and raised the question of whether allowing unrestricted foreign ownership would bring substantial fresh foreign direct investment, technology transfer or new employment to Bangladesh.
- BAFFA's concerns came amid renewed regulatory attention to foreign-owned freight forwarding companies. On September 8, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a clarification regarding the renewal of licences of fully foreign-owned companies that had received licences before July 1, 2015, under the Freight Forwarding Agents Licensing and Operations Rules, 2008.
- BAFFA recently sent a letter to the NBR and the Prime Minister's Office arguing against allowing 100 percent foreign ownership in the freight forwarding sector.
- In the letters, BAFFA said any broader policy change should therefore be preceded by a comprehensive economic impact assessment and meaningful consultation with local industry stakeholders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/baffa-argues-against-100-foreign-ownership-freight-forwarding-sector-4277116>

Growth in NPLs weakening Bangladesh's banking sector: Experts

The Financial Express, Sep 19, 2026

- The growing trend of non-performing loans (NPLs) in Bangladesh's banking sector is placing severe pressure on the nation's financial system, with default loans now exceeding 32 percent of total disbursements and disrupting the natural cycle of credit recycling.
- National Professor Dr. Mahbub Ullah, former Professor and Chairman of the Department of Development Studies at University of Dhaka, highlighted these concerns while delivering the 23rd Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture on "Ethics in Banking," organized by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) on Saturday, reports UNB.
- Bangladesh Bank Governor and Chairman of the BIBM Governing Board, Md Mostaqur Rahman, presided over the event. BIBM Director General Dr. Md. Ezazul Islam delivered the welcome address, while Professor and Director (Research, Development and Consultancy) Md. Shihab Uddin Khan offered the vote of thanks.
- In his memorial lecture, Dr. Mahbub Ullah observed that the core engine of the banking system—the continuous recycling of loan funds through deposit collection, lending, and reinvestment—has been severely disrupted. Because a significant portion of disbursed loans is not returning on time, banks are facing severe liquidity pressures and constrained lending capacity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/growth-in-npls-weakening-banking-sector-experts>

Bangla QR to pace up financial inclusion, digitisation: Experts

The Financial Express, Sep 20, 2026

- Bangla QR is set to play a major role in advancing the digitisation of Bangladesh's financial system for real-time services, but its expansion needs strong monitoring, risk management, compliance and fraud protection.
- Experts expressed such view at a dialogue in Dhaka on Saturday, as the finance minister highlighted the infrastructure needs to go for wide-scale digitising of financial services that can also bring about financial inclusion of segments of the population.
- The speakers also stressed the need for robust internet connectivity, digital literacy and appropriate policy support to ensure that financial digitisation benefits marginalised people and contributes to sustainable economic development.
- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said robust internet connectivity, a "one-citizen, one-wallet" system and the integration of the rural economy into the digital system are essential for sustainable development and bringing marginalised people into the economic mainstream.
- "Digital inclusion and financial inclusion complement each other. Robust digital infrastructure and effective implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) can help ensure sustainable development," he said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bangla-qr-to-pace-up-financial-inclusion-digitisation-experts>

International

Oil slides after China asks Iran to limit Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities

The Daily Star, Sep 19, 2026

- Oil prices fell on Friday after China, acting on a request from Saudi Arabia, asked Iran to limit attacks by Houthi rebels on Saudi oil infrastructure that have threatened a second oil export route in the Middle East.
- Brent crude futures settled at \$104.87 a barrel, down 95 cents, or 0.93 percent. US West Texas Intermediate futures finished at \$100.30 a barrel, down \$1.61, or 1.58 percent.
- Oil prices have moved up steadily in the last few weeks as the US and Iran resumed attacks on each other and the Iran-aligned Houthis also stepped up their military activities.
- The recent action, coupled with refining capacity issues worldwide, has pushed up the price of key fuels like diesel in major markets.
- Currently, retail diesel in the United States costs \$6.45 a gallon, according to AAA data, a record, while retail gasoline averages \$4.47 a gallon, at a time of the year when gasoline prices are usually declining.
- IIR Energy, a refining data provider, said on Friday that US refining capacity in production was expected to fall next week by 371,000 barrels per day (bpd).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-slides-after-china-asks-iran-limit-houthi-attacks-saudi-oil-facilities-4276826>

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