Key News

Stock Market & Company

DSEX slips below 5,900 as investors book profits

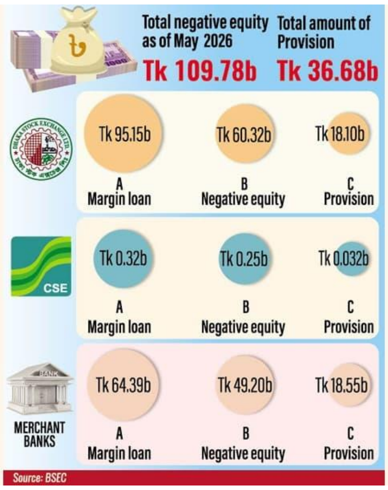
The Financial Express, July 20, 2026

- The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) slipped below the 5,900-point mark on Sunday, as investors booked profits in recently rallied stocks while assessing the potential impact of proposed changes to the country's margin financing rules.
- Market analysts say broad-based selling pressure hit major sectors, including insurance, engineering, food, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and banking, following weeks of strong gains.
- The DSEX had climbed above the 5,900-point level for the first time in nearly two years last week, buoyed by a series of regulatory reforms and capital market-friendly government policies that boosted investor confidence.
- "The recent rally prompted many short-term investors to lock in profits," said a leading stockbroker.
- He added that investors were also evaluating the implications of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's (BSEC) proposed amendments to the margin financing rules, which temporarily dampened market sentiment.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/dsex-slips-below-5900-as-investors-book-profits

Brokerage firms boost provisions against negative equity to Tk 36.7b

The Financial Express, July 21, 2026



- Stock brokerage firms and merchant banks have significantly strengthened their financial position by increasing provisions against long-standing negative equity arising from margin loans, although the decade-old problem continues to weigh on the capital market.Finance.
- Provisioning against negative equity surged by 36 per cent over the past 18 months to Tk 36.68 billion as of May 30, up from Tk 27.0 billion in October 2024, as brokerage houses and merchant banks are complying with regulatory directives to build stronger financial buffers against potential losses.
- Market insiders point out that this reflects a gradual improvement in the financial health of brokerage firms, as many institutions have strengthened their balance sheets through higher provisioning and tighter risk management practices following regulatory directives.

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) last year granted market intermediaries additional time to complete provisioning for unrealised losses and adjust negative equity.
- Depending on board-approved roadmaps, most institutions received one- to two-year extensions, while a few were granted deadlines stretching to 2030 or even 2032.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/brokerage-firms-boost-provisions-against-negative-equity-to-tk-367b

Pragati Insurance posts 24% growth in Q2 earnings

The Business Standard, July 20, 2026

- Pragati Insurance has reported a 23.57% year-on-year increase in earnings per share (EPS) for the second quarter of 2026, driven by higher operating and other income.
- According to a disclosure published today (20 July), the listed non-life insurer's EPS rose to Tk1.52 for the April-June quarter, up from Tk1.23 in the corresponding period a year earlier.
- For the first six months of 2026, the company's EPS climbed 37.6% to Tk3.11, compared with Tk2.26 in the January-June period of 2025.
- The insurer also reported a sharp improvement in its net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS), which increased to Tk2.00 during the first half of 2026. The company attributed the growth to higher premium collections and increased other income.
- Its net asset value (NAV) per share stood at Tk54.43 as of 30 June 2026, compared with Tk55.69 at the end of December 2025.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pragati-insurance-posts-24-growth-q2-earnings-1493461

BSEC seeks public opinion on draft amendments to Margin Rules 2025

The Business Standard, July 20, 2026

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has published a draft amendment to "Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Margin) Rules, 2025" and invited opinions, suggestions and objections from stakeholders, according to a press release issued by the commission today (20 July).
- The draft amendment has been published in national daily newspapers as well as on the BSEC website, with stakeholders given two weeks from the date of publication to submit their feedback to the commission.
- The commission said the consultation is a legal requirement and under the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969, and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission Act, 1993, seeking opinions from stakeholders is a mandatory process whenever any rule is framed or amended.
- BSEC said it would give due importance to all opinions, suggestions and objections received, and the rules would be finalised after necessary revisions, additions or modifications before being enacted through a government gazette notification.
- The commission clarified that the currently published draft is merely a proposal and not a final amendment, stating there is no scope for confusion or concern based on various assumptions, speculation or incomplete information regarding the draft.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-seeks-public-opinion-draft-amendments-margin-rules-2025-1493061

TK7,780cr insurance claims unpaid till March 2026

The Financial Express, July 20, 2026

- Bangladesh's insurance industry continues to struggle with claim settlements, with more than seven out of every 10 claims remaining unpaid as of March this year, despite a legal requirement to settle valid claims within 90 days.
- According to the latest data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra), insurers had received claims worth Tk10,611 crore across the life and non-life segments by the end of March 2026. Of that, Tk7,779 crore, or 73.31%, remained unsettled.
- The situation is particularly alarming in the non-life segment, where insurers settled only 11.3% of claims, leaving Tk3,369 crore, or 88.70% of total claims, unpaid.
- Life insurers performed relatively better but still left Tk4,410 crore, or 64.73% of claims, unsettled out of Tk6,813 crore received by the end of March 2026.
- Industry insiders say persistent delays in claim settlements have badly eroded public confidence in the insurance sector. Many policyholders who pay their premiums regularly do not receive compensation on time.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/73-tk10611cr-claims-unpaid-till-march-non-life-settlements-just-11-1493451

Economy & Industry

Bangladesh’s GDP growth halves to 2.2% in Jan-Mar as industry contracts

The Daily Star, July 20, 2026

- Bangladesh's economy grew by 2.22 percent in the January-March quarter of fiscal year 2025-26, almost half the rate recorded in the same period a year earlier, as the industrial sector contracted, according to provisional data published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- The economy grew by 4.53 percent in the third quarter of FY25, and the latest GDP growth figure is the lowest since the fourth quarter of FY25.
- The BBS said industrial output, the country's main growth engine, declined by 0.28 percent during the January-March period of FY26, reversing the expansion recorded a year earlier.
- Agriculture also lost momentum, with growth easing to 1.74 percent from 4.61 percent in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year. Growth in the services sector, which accounts for more than half of GDP, slowed markedly to 3.52 percent from 7.32 percent a year earlier, reflecting broad-based weakness across the economy.
- The BBS earlier published a provisional estimate of the country's economic growth at 4.14 percent for FY26, up from 3.49 percent in the previous fiscal year.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-gdp-growth-halves-22-jan-mar-industry-contracts-4228351

DCCI urges NBR to spare compliant businesses from tax harassment

The Daily Star, July 19, 2026

- The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to avoid harassing compliant businesses while stepping up monitoring of withholding tax deduction and deposit.
- The chamber said the initiative, if implemented properly, would enhance revenue collection and widen the country's tax net, but cautioned that businesses already compliant with tax rules should not face unnecessary harassment during the exercise.
- Businesses yet to achieve full compliance should be given adequate time and a fair opportunity to do so, the DCCI said in a statement today.
- Achieving both the revenue collection target and maintaining a business-friendly environment simultaneously is possible, DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed said, calling for constructive dialogue between the NBR and the business community.

- The effective adoption of automation and digitalisation across the revenue administration is essential to widen the tax net and meet collection targets, he added.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dcci-urges-nbr-spare-compliant-businesses-tax-harassment-4228291

International

Forget crude. War pushes refiners to the brink

The Daily Star, July 21, 2026

- The global oil refining industry is flashing warning signs. The supply chain for the products that fuel the global economy is under growing stress as conflicts in the Middle East and Russia ripple through energy markets.
- Benchmark crude prices have retreated sharply from the highs of $118 a barrel reached during the height of the Iran war and are now hovering around $85, suggesting many investors believe the threat of an energy crisis has faded.
- While crude supplies have partially recovered, the system that converts crude into fuels is still struggling after months of disruption from conflicts in Russia and the Middle East.
- Gasoline and diesel inventories sit near multi-year lows, refining margins have surged to record levels, and refinery throughput remains severely curtailed across key producing regions. Households and industry consume refined products, not crude, so this is the stress they should be monitoring.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/forget-crude-war-pushes-refiners-the-brink-4228621

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