

Key News

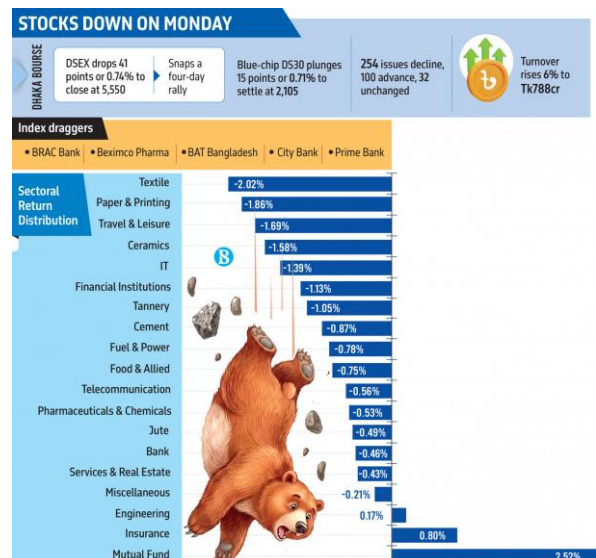
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Stock Market & Company

Fuel price shock sends stocks lower, snaps four-day rally

The Business Standard, Sep 21, 2026

- Stocks fell sharply today (21 September) as investors reacted to the government's decision to raise domestic fuel prices by Tk20 per litre, fearing higher transportation and production costs would squeeze corporate earnings and fuel inflation.
- The sell-off snapped a four-session winning streak on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), with the benchmark DSEX losing 41 points, or 0.74%, to close at 5,550. The blue-chip DS30 also fell 15 points, or 0.71%, to settle at 2,105.
- Market breadth turned decisively negative, with 254 issues declining against 100 advancing and 32 remaining unchanged. Despite the fall in the indices, turnover rose 6% to Tk788 crore as investors actively repositioned their portfolios amid heightened uncertainty.
- The government announced the fuel price hike on Sunday night, raising the prices of diesel, kerosene, petrol and octane by Tk20 per litre. The move came as global energy prices have come under renewed pressure amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/fuel-price-shock-sends-stocks-lower-snaps-four-day-rally-1549721>

Auditors question trustee's failure to convene meetings on discounted funds

The Business Standard, Sep 21, 2026

- Auditors have issued qualified opinions on the financial statements of multiple closed-end mutual funds managed by ICB Asset Management Company Limited (ICB AMCL), citing the trustee's failure to convene mandatory unitholder meetings despite the funds' market prices trading at steep discounts to their net asset values (NAVs).
- Chartered accountancy firm MJ Abedin & Co, led by Partner Harun Mahmud, issued qualified audit reports for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2026 for eight funds for which Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) acts as trustee and ICB AMCL as asset manager, according to disclosures filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (21 September).

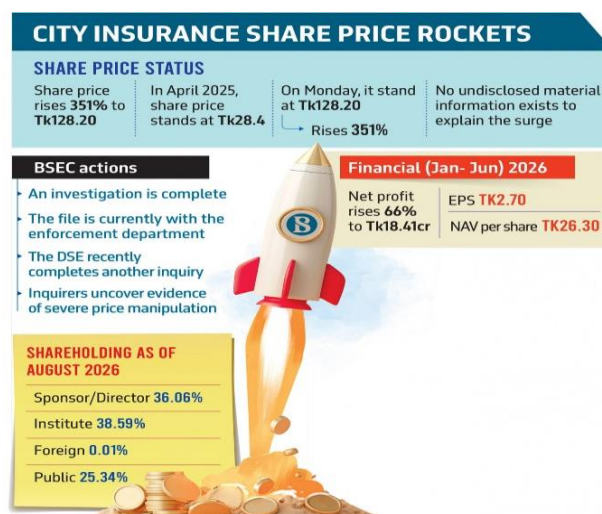
- Under the BSEC Mutual Fund Rules 2025, if a fund's six-month average market price falls more than 25% below its NAV at fair value, the trustee is required to convene a unitholders' meeting to consider converting the fund into an open-ended scheme or liquidating it.
- The auditor noted that the trustee had failed to convene such meetings despite discount levels significantly breaching the 25% statutory threshold.
- Among the flagged schemes, Phoenix Finance 1st Mutual Fund recorded the widest gap, with its six-month average trading price of Tk4 sitting 54.75% below NAV. IFIL Islamic Mutual Fund-01 followed with a 45.87% discount at Tk4.20.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/auditors-question-trustees-failure-convene-meetings-discounted-funds-1549716>

City General Insurance share jumps 351% in 17 months amid probes

The Business Standard, Sep 21, 2026

- The share price of City General Insurance Company has surged 351% in around 17 months, despite the insurer making no major price-sensitive disclosure that could clearly explain the sharp rally.
- The company's share price rose to Tk128.20 on 21 September 2026 from Tk28.40 in April 2025, gaining Tk99.80, or 351%, during the period.
- The sharp price appreciation has drawn regulatory scrutiny, with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) completing an investigation into the company's share trading and the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) recently conducting a separate inquiry, according to people familiar with the matter.
- The BSEC investigation has reportedly moved to the enforcement stage, a source said.
- The investigation reportedly found evidence of manipulation in the trading of the company's shares, according to the source.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/city-general-insurance-share-jumps-351-17-months-amid-probes-1549726>

Sonali Bank's H1 profit jumps 193% to Tk1,878cr on treasury gains, lower provisions

The Business Standard, Sep 20, 2026

- Sonali Bank PLC, the country's largest state-owned lender, reported a massive 193% year-on-year surge in consolidated net profit to Tk1,878 crore for the first half of 2026, marking the highest net earnings recorded by any local bank during the six months.
- According to the bank's financial statements released recently, consolidated earnings per share (EPS) jumped to Tk41.47 in H1 2026, up significantly from Tk14.14 in the corresponding period last year.
- According to bank sources, with this performance, the lender outperformed leading private commercial lenders, including BRAC Bank, which posted a net profit of Tk1,423 crore during the January-June period.
- Financial data shows that Sonali Bank's net interest income fell 26% year-on-year to Tk424.88 crore during the first half, primarily impacted by elevated borrowing costs.
- However, the state-owned bank offset the interest income decline through robust treasury operations, securing Tk4,824 crore in investment income — a 9% growth compared to the same period of 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/sonali-banks-h1-profit-jumps-193-tk1878cr-treasury-gains-lower-provisions-1549191>

Economy & Industry

Govt lifts permission requirement for yarn, fabric imports

The Business Standard, Sep 21, 2026

- The government has scrapped the mandatory requirement for export-oriented garment manufacturers to obtain commerce ministry's permission to import yarn and fabric, following an amendment to the Import Policy Order (IPO).
- The ministry issued a notification on Sunday (20 September), announcing the amendment – much to the relief of the apparel exporters.
- The permission requirement was introduced in the new IPO, which came into effect in August. Businesses had criticised the provision, saying it undermined ease of doing business and increased costs.
- Exporters said some consignments of raw materials had already arrived at ports but could not be cleared because importers had not obtained the required ministry permission.
- They expect the amendment to speed up customs clearance and prevent such complications.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/govt-lifts-permission-requirement-yarn-fabric-imports-knitwear-exporters-1549351>

Remittance inflow rises 14.9pc to \$7.82b in nearly 3 months of FY27

The Financial Express, Sep 21, 2026

- Bangladesh received US\$7.819 billion in workers' remittances during July 2026 to September 20 of the current fiscal year (FY2026-27), registering a 14.9 per cent year-on-year growth from \$6.803 billion during the corresponding period of FY2025-26.
- According to Bangladesh Bank data, remittance inflow stood at \$1.994 billion during September 1-20, 2026, compared with \$1.903 billion during the same period last year, marking a 4.8 per cent year-on-year increase.
- The country received \$117 million in remittances on September 20, 2026, reports BSS.
- The latest figures show that remittance inflows have maintained strong growth momentum in the current fiscal year, supporting the country's external sector and foreign exchange position.
- From July 1 to September 20 of FY2026-27, Bangladesh received \$7.819 billion in remittances, compared with \$6.803 billion in the corresponding period of FY2025-26, an increase of \$1.016 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/remittance-inflow-rises-149pc-to-782b-in-nearly-3-months-of-fy27>

Oil shock raises risk of metals shock as EV sales accelerate

The Daily Star, Sep 21, 2026

- The oil shock caused by the Iran war is re-charging the electric vehicle (EV) market as high gasoline and diesel prices stimulate consumer demand for alternatives.
- Economics is becoming as powerful a driver of EV sales as government subsidies and green ideology, particularly in countries most exposed to the loss of oil and gas supply from the Gulf.
- This has huge implications for both the oil and metal markets, particularly for critical EV inputs such as lithium, nickel and copper.
- Metal bulls lost interest in the EV story a couple of years ago after reality failed to live up to the early hype.
- Grid storage and data centers are now the hot talking-points for lithium and copper markets respectively.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-shock-raises-risk-metals-shock-ev-sales-accelerate-4279301>

International

UK's Burnham agrees to Saudi request for refuelling support

The Business Standard, Sep 22, 2026

- British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on Monday he had agreed to a request from Saudi Arabia to provide defensive air-to-air refuelling for a limited period, a move he described as helping to stabilise the wider region.
- Riyadh requested support after the Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen, intensified their attacks on Saudi Arabia, opening a new front in the wider war that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.
- "We have received a request from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for military support, and on the advice of the defence secretary and the foreign secretary, last night I agreed to that request for defensive air-to-air refuelling," he told reporters as he travelled to New York for a meeting of the UN General Assembly.
- "Because of course Saudi Arabia has been experiencing attack... and we need to keep those pathways open, and hence our agreement to the request," he said.
- Britain and Saudi Arabia have been close military allies for decades, with Britain serving as one of the kingdom's largest arms suppliers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/uks-burnham-agrees-saudi-request-refuelling-support-1549911>

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