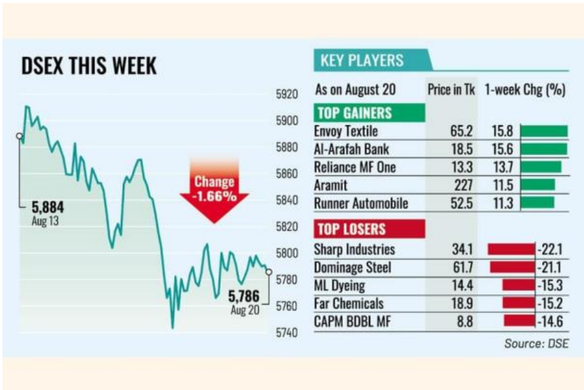
Key News

Stock Market & Company

DSEX tumbles under heavy selling pressure

The Financial Express, Aug 22, 2026



- Stocks came under heavy selling pressure this week, with the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) shedding nearly 100 points as investors remained cautious amid persistent domestic and geopolitical concerns, which overshadowed the long-awaited finalisation of revised margin financing rules.
- Market operators said the ongoing energy crisis, regulatory uncertainty and heightened geopolitical tensions continued to weigh on investor sentiment and risk appetite.
- A leading stockbroker said fresh challenges to the country's macroeconomic outlook arising from the energy crisis were discouraging investors from committing new funds to equities.
- The Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global fuel shipments, remains virtually closed, while energy prices have started rising again after easing earlier.
- Investors are particularly worried that persistently high energy costs could fuel inflationary pressure in the coming quarter and weigh on corporate earnings.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/dsex-tumbles-under-heavy-selling-pressure

No ownership transfer plan, yet Mithun Knitting shares surge

The Business Standard, Aug 20, 2026

- Despite its factory remaining closed since 2019 and all business operations being halted, the share price of listed Mithun Knitting and Dyeing (CEPZ) Ltd has surged in recent trading sessions.
- The company, however, has told the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) that there is currently no ongoing or approved plan to transfer shares held by its sponsors or directors to any new investor.
- The stock gained 20% in two trading sessions, closing at Tk15.70 on the DSE today (20 August).
- The DSE sought an explanation from the company on 17 August over the unusual rise in its share price and trading volume. In response, Mithun Knitting said it was unaware of any undisclosed price-sensitive information (PSI), significant corporate decision or other material event that could explain the movement.

- The company said its sponsors and directors had previously explored transferring their shares to potential investors, but the process could not be completed because of unresolved bank liabilities and related issues.
- It subsequently applied to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on 1 September 2025 to keep the relevant share-transfer application in abeyance.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/no-ownership-transfer-plan-yet-mithun-knitting-shares-surge-1520801

World Bank reviews feasibility of Mortgage Refinance Company in Bangladesh

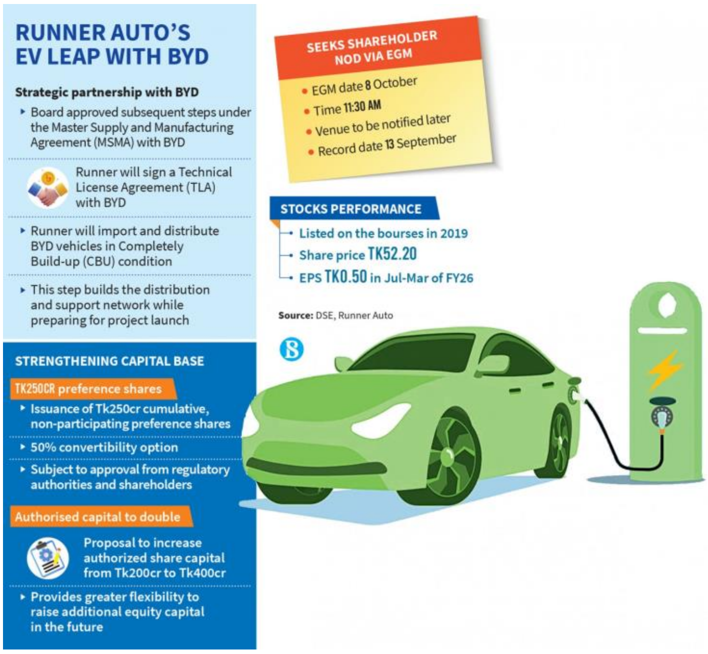
The Business Standard, Aug 19, 2026

- A meeting was held between the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and representatives of the World Bank Group to discuss the feasibility of establishing a Mortgage Refinance Company (MRC) in Bangladesh.
- The meeting was held at the BSEC headquarters yesterday (19 August), according to a press release issued by the commission today.
- The meeting discussed the proposed framework and role of a Mortgage Refinance Company in Bangladesh's housing finance sector.
- The initiative aims to expand the country's housing finance sector while deepening the capital market.
- Presided over by BSEC Chairman Masud Khan, the meeting was attended, among others, by BSEC Commissioners Tanwir Habib Rahman, Nahid Mahtab, Md. Nafeez Al Tarik, and Hossain Sadat. Representatives of the World Bank Group were also present at the meeting.
- According to the press release, the meeting focused on detailed discussions about the potential institutional structure of the MRC and its role in developing housing finance.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/world-bank-reviews-feasibility-mortgage-refinance-company-bangladesh-1520786

Runner moves ahead with BYD tie-up, signs EV licensing deal

The Business Standard, Aug 22, 2026



- Runner Automobiles PLC is moving ahead with its partnership with Chinese electric vehicle giant BYD Auto Industry Co, approving a series of measures to launch the import and distribution of BYD vehicles in Bangladesh.
- At a board meeting on 20 August, the company approved the next course of action under its Master Supply and Manufacturing Agreement (MSMA) with BYD, according to a price-sensitive statement.
- Under the agreement, Runner will sign a Technical Licence Agreement (TLA) with BYD and import and distribute BYD vehicles in completely built-up (CBU) condition.
- The company said the initiative is aimed at establishing the necessary distribution network and preparing for the proposed project.
- As part of the plan, Runner also intends to raise Tk250 crore through the issuance of preference shares, subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/runner-moves-ahead-byd-tie-signs-ev-licensing-deal-1522116

Desh General Insurance profit soars 439% in H1

The Business Standard, Aug 22, 2026

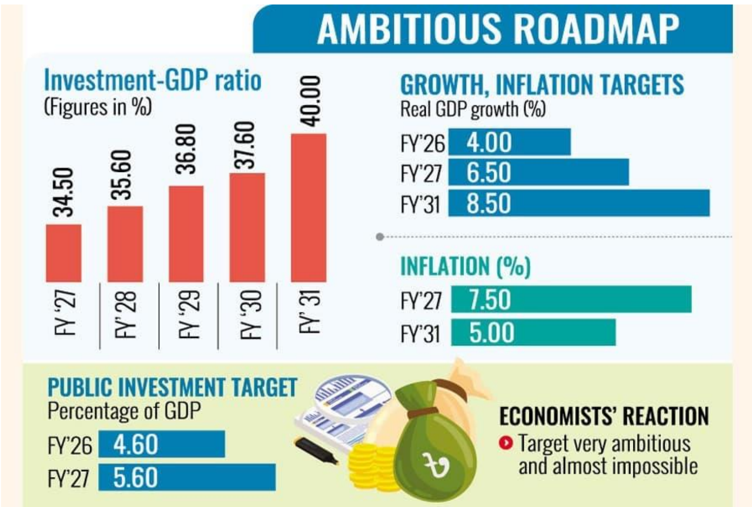
- Desh General Insurance Limited has posted a 439% year-on-year growth in net profit after tax in the first half of 2026.
- According to the company's unaudited financial statements for the January-June period, its net profit rose to Tk1.94 crore, with earnings per share (EPS) of Tk0.49, from Tk0.35 crore and EPS of Tk0.09 in the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The insurer's first-half profit also surpassed its total annual profit for 2025. The company posted a net profit of Tk64 lakh, with EPS of Tk0.16, for the full year 2025.
- The company's board has recommended a 2% cash dividend for shareholders, subject to approval at its annual general meeting (AGM), scheduled to be held on 9 September.
- In the second quarter, from April to June, its EPS surged by 775% to Tk0.35, up from Tk0.04 in Q2 of 2025, its statements showed.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/desh-general-insurance-profit-soars-439-h1-1522081

Economy & Industry

Govt targets lofty 34.5pc investment-GDP ratio for FY27

The Financial Express, Aug 22, 2026



- Bangladesh wants to expand its investment-to-GDP ratio by 6.57 percentage points within a year as it has set the aspiration in the newly approved five-year development strategy and framework, analysts say.
- Economists have termed this "over-ambitious", saying the target is almost impossible to achieve.
- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman formally unveiled the cover of the "Five-Year Strategic Framework for Reform and Development-FYSFRD (July 2026 to June 2031)" alongside its complementary Strategic Action Matrix on Wednesday.
- Several economic targets, including the investment-to-GDP ratio increase goal, were set there.
- Moving decisively away from traditional and rigid bureaucratic planning models, the General Economics Division (GED) under the Planning Commission prepared the dynamic economic blueprint, designed to guide the nation "from fragility to prosperity".
- According to the framework's indicator, the government wants to raise the investment-to-GDP ratio to 34.5 per cent within the current fiscal year.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/govt-targets-lofty-345pc-investment-gdp-ratio-for-fy27-1

MGI enters sanitaryware market with Tk 300 crore investment

The Daily Star, Aug 22, 2026

- Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), one of the country's largest industrial conglomerates, has entered the sanitaryware market, seeking to tap growing demand amid increased construction activity.
- The group, which has been manufacturing construction materials, namely cement, for more than two decades, expanded into sanitary products five years after launching its ceramic products business in 2021 as part of its efforts to diversify its product portfolio.
- "We want to offer customers a complete range of construction material solutions to meet their needs. That's why, alongside tiles, sanitaryware is part of our portfolio expansion," MGI Chairman Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star recently.
- The conglomerate, which also operates in the consumer goods and energy sectors, said it has invested around Tk 300 crore in its sanitaryware business. Its factory has a production capacity of around 60,000 pieces a month and employs more than 600 people.
- MGI mainly manufactures basins and commodes, which together account for nearly 80 percent of the sanitaryware market, valued at around Tk 2,000 crore. The market is growing by roughly 8 to 10 percent annually, according to industry operators.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mgi-enters-sanitaryware-market-tk-300-crore-investment-4254131

International

Gold rallies to 3-month high

The Daily Star, Aug 22, 2026

- Gold climbed to a more than three-month high on Friday, on track for its third straight weekly gain, aided by a break above key technical levels as the US Treasury's buyback support plan dragged on the dollar.
- Spot gold climbed 2.4 percent to $4,623.94 per ounce by 1:41 p.m. EDT (1741 GMT), earlier touching $4,631.99 — its highest since May 15. US gold futures settled 2.4 percent higher at $4,680.60.
- Prices have gained over 5 percent so far this week, including their biggest one-day rise since early February registered on Wednesday.
- The metal is also trading above all key moving averages, having broken above the closely watched 200-day moving average of around $4,513, a move technical analysts typically view as bullish.
- "A big factor, of course, is technical... next step is $4,700 if this momentum continues, but also I think it's been very much driven by a drop in the US dollar," said Bart Melek, global head of commodity strategy at TD Securities.
- The dollar languished near its lowest level since mid-May as investors questioned whether the US Treasury's efforts to calm the bond markets might end up undermining confidence in the currency.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-rallies-3-month-high-4254251

BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

Bank Asia SECURITIES LIMITED

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