

Key News

[Stocks rally as finance minister vows professional leadership at BSEC](#)

[BSEC review to become mandatory before court approval in corporate restructuring](#)

[ACC probes Tk3 lakh crore fraud allegations against BAT](#)

[Banks below Tk 2,000cr capital barred from cash dividends](#)

[Leather sector remains vulnerable despite booming Eid economy](#)

[ADP implementation edges up to 41.41% in Jul-Apr](#)

[NBFI depositors seek full repayment guarantee by December](#)

[Mexico, EU to lower tariffs in bid to grow non-US trade](#)

Stock Market & Company

Stocks rally as finance minister vows professional leadership at BSEC

The Business Standard, May 23, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) extended its rally for a fourth consecutive session today (23 May), as investor confidence strengthened following Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury's pledge to ensure professional and skilled leadership at key financial institutions.
- Speaking at a policy symposium in the capital, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury announced a complete ban on political appointments in the financial sector, including the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).
- He said the government would appoint only professional and competent individuals to key regulatory positions in a bid to restore investor confidence and strengthen corporate governance.
- The announcement boosted market sentiment, triggering a broad-based rally and adding significantly to market capitalisation, according to market insiders.
- The benchmark DSEX index rose 64 points, or 1.22%, to close at 5,328. Over the past four trading sessions, the index has gained a cumulative 125 points.
- The blue-chip DS30 index also advanced strongly, climbing 34 points to finish at 2,030.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-rally-finance-minister-vows-professional-leadership-bsec-1447046>

BSEC review to become mandatory before court approval in corporate restructuring

The Business Standard, May 23, 2026

- The role of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and stock exchanges is set to become more prominent in mergers, acquisitions, demergers and other corporate restructuring activities involving listed companies under a new draft regulation.
- The securities regulator today (23 May) published the draft "Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Corporate Restructuring) Rules, 2026" and invited opinions, suggestions and objections within two weeks of publication.
- According to the draft rules, listed companies will have to submit merger or demerger schemes to the BSEC and stock exchanges for review before seeking court approval.
- BSEC said listed companies frequently engage in mergers, demergers, amalgamations, acquisitions and other restructuring activities, which require proper valuation, adequate disclosures and greater market transparency, particularly to protect minority shareholders.
- Speaking to The Business Standard, BSEC Director and Spokesperson Abul Kalam said companies would first need board approval for any restructuring proposal before approaching the court.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-review-become-mandatory-court-approval-corporate-restructuring-1447041>

ACC probes Tk3 lakh crore fraud allegations against BAT

The Daily Sun, May 23, 2026

- The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched an investigation into allegations of fraud and money laundering involving more than Tk3 lakh crore against multinational tobacco company British American Tobacco (BAT) over the past 55 years.
- As part of the inquiry, the state anti-graft agency has sent letters to several government offices seeking information and documents related to the allegations of financial irregularities and money laundering involving the company. A senior ACC official confirmed on Saturday that the commission has decided to examine the allegations and has already begun reviewing relevant records and documents.
- ACC Deputy Director (Public Relations) Md Akhterul Islam told the media that letters had been sent to different offices, including the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, to verify the facts behind the allegations. "After examining the documents, if evidence supporting the allegations is found, legal action will be taken in accordance with the law," he said.
- According to the complaint submitted to the ACC, the journey of the "Pakistan Tobacco Company" (PTC) began in Karachi following the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947.
- The company later established two major factories in Chattogram and Dhaka. After Bangladesh's independence in 1971, the abandoned properties were legally supposed to come under the ownership of the Bangladesh government.

<https://www.daily-sun.com/business/876610>

Banks below Tk 2,000cr capital barred from cash dividends

The Daily Star, May 24, 2026

- Only one bank will be able to pay cash dividends next year after the Bangladesh Bank barred lenders with paid-up capital below Tk 2,000 crore from making such payouts.
- In a circular issued yesterday, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) said the move is aimed at strengthening the capital base of the banking sector. It also seeks to improve the ability of commercial lenders to absorb future risks amid a challenging global and domestic financial environment.
- Only BRAC Bank and National Bank PLC (NBL) meet the higher paid-up capital threshold among listed lenders.
- However, National Bank remains in significant losses, leaving BRAC Bank as the only institution effectively positioned to meet the requirement for cash dividend payments.
- Even for banks that meet the paid-up capital threshold, the central bank has capped cash dividends at 50 percent of the declared payout, with the remainder to be issued as stock dividends.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-below-tk-2000cr-capital-barred-cash-dividends-4182981>

Economy & Industry

Leather sector remains vulnerable despite booming Eid economy

The Daily Sun, May 24, 2026

- Eid-ul-Azha is fast approaching, bringing with it a surge in festive economic activity. It is estimated that transactions worth nearly Tk 100,000 crore take place around the festival. However, while most sectors enjoy strong business momentum during Eid, the leather industry once again finds itself in a struggling and vulnerable position. Prices of leather products have increased significantly over the years, yet raw hide prices have not seen corresponding growth. Despite being a promising standalone sector, it continues to face recurring crises annually.
- As a result, although Eid generates massive economic activity, questions remain over whether the broader economic benefits are fully reflected when a major sector like leather fails to progress at the same pace. This picture emerges from data analysis and discussions with experts.
- As in previous years, Eid-ul-Azha has once again triggered a large seasonal economic cycle across Bangladesh. From livestock farming, cattle markets, transportation, animal feed, leather industries, online sales, and mobile banking to spices and cooking ingredients—thousands of crores of taka are exchanged every year around the festival.
- Economists estimate that economic activity worth around Tk 100,000 crore is generated annually around Eid sacrifices. Livestock farming, market management, transportation, animal feed, online transactions, mobile financial services (MFS), slaughter services, cold storage, leather collection, and household consumption together have turned Eid-ul-Azha into one of the country's largest seasonal economic drivers.

<https://www.daily-sun.com/business/876618/leather-sector-remains-vulnerable-despite-booming-eid-economy>

ADP implementation edges up to 41.41% in Jul-Apr

The Daily Sun, May 24, 2026

- Implementation of Bangladesh's revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) rose slightly during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, although major ministries and divisions continued to show uneven spending performance amid funding and execution challenges.
- According to the latest data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), overall ADP implementation stood at 41.41% during the July-April period of the fiscal 2025-26, marginally higher than 41.31% recorded in the same period a year earlier.
- The government spent Tk86,596 crore during the period against the revised ADP allocation of around Tk2.08 lakh crore. IMED data showed that implementation of foreign-funded projects significantly outpaced government-funded schemes. Implementation of projects financed through foreign assistance reached 45.25%, or Tk32,580 crore, during July-April, compared with 43.90% in the same period of the previous fiscal year.
- In contrast, implementation from the government's own funds stood at 38.20%, or Tk48,901 crore, only slightly higher. Implementation under self-financed projects, however, declined sharply to 56.35% from 64.85% in the previous fiscal year.
- The report also showed that ADP spending in April alone reached Tk10,909 crore, accounting for 5.22% of the total revised allocation. Among ministries and divisions, the Local Government Division implemented the highest amount in absolute terms, spending Tk21,104 crore, or 55.97% of its allocation, during the July-April period.

<https://www.daily-sun.com/business/876609>

NBFI depositors seek full repayment guarantee by December

The Daily Star, May 24, 2026

- The depositors of troubled non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) today demanded a legally binding government gazette notification ensuring full repayment of their deposits, along with profits, by the end of this year, alleging that they were being kept in the dark about the government's plans.
- At a press briefing at the National Press Club, an alliance representing affected depositors said neither Bangladesh Bank nor the finance ministry had officially communicated with them despite a silent protest and memorandum submitted on May 6.
- The alliance said in a press release provided at the event that around 12,000 depositors were still waiting for clarity regarding the fate of their savings, many of whom had been unable to access their money since 2019.
- "We are only hearing things through the media. No ordinance has been issued yet. No official government order has reached us," said Jafar Ullah Khan, convenor of the Alliance of 6 NBFIs Depositors Recovery Committee.
- "We will not accept any 'under process' language as an alternative to a legal commitment. Issue the gazette notification. Fix a timeframe. Give it in writing," he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbfi-depositors-seek-full-repayment-guarantee-december-4182816>

International

Mexico, EU to lower tariffs in bid to grow non-US trade

The Daily Star, May 23, 2026

- The European Union and Mexico will on Friday sign a deal reducing tariffs on each other's goods as both seek to lessen their dependence on trade with the United States.
- The expansion of an accord dating to 2000 comes as Mexico fights hard to preserve a three-way free trade agreement with the United States and Canada, which is crucial to all three economies.
- The EU is Mexico's third-largest trading partner, lagging far behind the United States and China.
- Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has stressed the importance of "opening other horizons" at a time when both Mexico and the European Union are grappling with US President Donald Trump's tariff offensive.
- The updated agreement to be signed by Sheinbaum and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the eighth EU-Mexico Summit removes most remaining barriers to trade and investment.
- It facilitates trade in auto parts, a sector particularly affected by Trump's tariffs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mexico-eu-lower-tariffs-bid-grow-non-us-trade-4182551>

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