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Stock Market & Company

Pre-Eid rally fizzles out as Dhaka stocks slide on global tensions

The Business Standard, Mar 24, 2026

- The pre-Eid optimism at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) proved short-lived as the market witnessed a sharp downturn today, with investors rattled by rising global geopolitical tensions and their potential economic fallout at home.
- Trading resumed after the weeklong holidays with heavy selling pressure dominating the session, as concerns over inflation, possible fuel price hikes, and energy supply disruptions linked to the ongoing Middle East crisis dampened sentiment.
- The uncertainty triggered a broad-based decline across sectors, wiping out nearly Tk9,000 crore in market capitalisation in a single day – an indication of weakening investor confidence.
- The benchmark DSEX index fell by 68 points, or 1.28%, to close at 5,284. The decline was even steeper among blue-chip stocks, with the DS30 index shedding 39 points, or 1.91%, to settle at 2,011. Market breadth remained decisively negative, with 243 issues declining against 121 gainers, while 27 stocks remained unchanged.
- Despite the significant drop, trading activity was subdued. Daily turnover stood at Tk492 crore, reflecting a cautious stance among investors who appear to be adopting a wait-and-see approach amid persistent uncertainties.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pre-aid-rally-fizzles-out-dhaka-stocks-slide-global-tensions-1393281>

Grameenphone forecasts Q1 revenue dip amid Middle East tensions

The Business Standard, Mar 24, 2026

- Grameenphone Limited has forecast a slight decline in its financial performance for the first quarter of 2026, citing global geopolitical tensions and ongoing domestic economic challenges.
- In a price-sensitive disclosure submitted to the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (24 March), the country's largest telecom operator said its revenue for the January-March period is expected to fall by around 2% year-on-year.
- Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) are also projected to decline by approximately 3% year-on-year.
- The company noted that further details regarding its performance will be disclosed in its official Q1 2026 financial report.
- Following the announcement, Grameenphone's share price fell 1.34% to close at Tk251.10, reflecting investor concerns over its near-term outlook.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/grameenphone-forecasts-q1-revenue-dip-amid-middle-east-tensions-1393316>

MK Footwear secures \$10m export deal with Chinese firm

The Business Standard, Mar 24, 2026

- MK Footwear PLC has signed a major export agreement with China-based Jinjiang Akia Sports Co Ltd aiming to boost its international business with an estimated annual export value of up to \$10 million.
- In a disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (24 March), the SME-listed company said it entered into a manufacturing and supply agreement with the Chinese firm on 24 March. Under the deal, Jinjiang Akia Sports has committed to placing a minimum annual order of 1 million pairs of footwear, subject to mutually agreed designs and specifications.
- The company expects the agreement to generate between \$8 million and \$10 million in export revenue annually, to be executed through regular purchase orders each contract year.
- To meet the anticipated demand, MK Footwear will allocate dedicated production capacity for the buyer. The agreement also includes standard provisions covering quality assurance, production timelines, payment terms, and other commercial conditions.
- Company officials said the deal is expected to significantly strengthen its export pipeline and support future business growth, provided that purchase orders are executed successfully and contractual obligations are met.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mk-footwear-secures-10m-export-deal-chinese-firm-1393311>

Economy & Industry

Runner teams up with China's BYD to explore local EV manufacturing

The Business Standard, Mar 24, 2026

- Bangladesh's ambitions to enter the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing space took a step forward as Runner Automobiles partnered with the Chinese BYD Company on a potential local production venture.
- Shanat Datta, chief financial officer of Runner Automobiles, told The Business Standard that an agreement was signed on Tuesday (24 March) between the two companies in China. Under the agreement, Runner will conduct a feasibility study for the local production of all BYD EV and non-EV vehicles.
- Earlier, the decision was approved at a Runner board meeting on 20 March, where the company authorised signing a master supply and manufacturing agreement with the Shenzhen-based EV giant. The collaboration is expected to pave the way for local vehicle production, technology transfer, and increased industrial capacity in Bangladesh.
- Company officials said the initiative is still at an early stage. CFO Datta said a comprehensive feasibility study will determine key aspects such as investment size, funding sources, plant construction, implementation timeline, and partnership structure. A detailed plan is expected by April.
- "Our main goal is to manufacture BYD-branded cars in the country," he said, adding that the company will design and develop the necessary factory infrastructure to support production, following the rules and regulations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/runner-manufacture-chinese-byd-automobiles-bangladesh-1392861>

BB governor holds talks with IMF on advancing loan programme

The Business Standard, Mar 24, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Mostaqur Rahman held a courtesy call with officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today (24 March), to discuss advancing Bangladesh's ongoing loan programme.
- After the IMF's spring meetings in Washington next month, a mission will visit Dhaka, a senior official of the central bank told The Business Standard. The mission's report will then be submitted to the IMF Executive Board.
- Another senior central bank official said they will focus on the policy rate, exchange rate stability, and the condition of the banking sector in the next meeting with the IMF.

- Bangladesh's \$4.7 billion loan programme with the IMF began on 30 January 2023.
- During the tenure of the interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, the size of the programme was increased to \$5.5 billion in June last year, with an additional \$800 million.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-governor-holds-talks-imf-advancing-loan-programme-1393206>

Dhaka to showcase South Asia's pharma strength

The Daily Star, Mar 24, 2026

- Dhaka is set to host one of South Asia's largest pharmaceutical manufacturing exhibitions as the 17th Asia Pharma Expo 2026 and Asia Lab Expo 2026 open at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Purbachal from March 29 to 31.
- Organised by the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI), the three-day event continues a 23-year legacy of promoting innovation, collaboration, and industrial advancement in the country's fast-growing pharmaceutical sector, according to a press release.
- More than 400 companies from over 20 countries are expected to participate, showcasing technologies in pharmaceutical processing and packaging, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and excipients, laboratory and analytical instruments, cleanroom and HVAC systems, water management, and turnkey project solutions.
- Following the inauguration, the exhibition will remain open to trade visitors throughout the three days, offering opportunities for sourcing, networking, technology assessment, and business expansion.
- The organisers expect this year's edition to build on the momentum of the 2025 expo, which drew around 14,500 trade visitors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-showcase-south-asias-pharma-strength-4134511>

International

US seeks to ease oil fears but industry is wary

The Daily Star, Mar 25, 2026

- A top US official in President Donald Trump's government sought to reassure fears about the oil market Monday as war raged on in the Middle East, but industry leaders remain wary.
- US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told the annual CERAWEEK conference in Houston that disruption to global energy flows is "temporary," as costs surged after US-Israeli strikes on Iran prompted Tehran's retaliation that virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz.
- Wright said Washington has adopted "pragmatic solutions" such as by helping oil flow to Asian refineries. The United States also started releasing oil from its strategic reserves on Friday. "But these are mitigants of a situation that's temporary," he stressed to a packed ballroom.
- His comments came as energy industry leaders converge in Texas this week under the cloud of oil and gas supply disruptions from the war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran in late February.
- More than 10,000 attendees are expected for CERAWEEK, the spring gathering that has taken on unexpected importance as fuel prices rocketed after the war began. Wright said the United States would be able to release up to 1.5 million barrels of oil a day, and this could get close to three million barrels.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-seeks-ease-oil-fears-industry-wary-4134761>

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