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Stock Market & Company

WEEKLY MARKET REVIEW: Stocks decline in holiday-shortened week

The Financial Express, Mar 28, 2026

- The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) closed lower in this holiday-shortened week, as investor sentiment weakened amid mounting concerns over potential energy shortages and rising inflation linked to the escalating Middle East crisis.
- Market participants expressed growing anxiety over fuel price volatility, with the conflict heightening fears of a prolonged energy crunch. Bangladesh, heavily reliant on imported fuel -- much of it shipped through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz -- remains particularly exposed to supply disruptions.
- Analysts said geopolitical uncertainty and its macroeconomic fallout prompted investors to adopt a cautious, risk-averse stance, leading to selling pressure.
- The market operated for only two sessions during the week, remaining closed for two days due to Eid-ul-Fitr and one day due to Independence Day.
- Trading resumed on Tuesday with broad-based selling, and the index fell 1.29 per cent. Although the following session posted modest gains, it failed to pare earlier losses.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/weekly-market-review-stocks-decline-in-holiday-shortened-week>

Post-Eid rally sees struggling Z-category firms top gainers' chart

The Business Standard, Mar 28, 2026

- Struggling Z-category companies, especially leasing firms and a few manufacturing entities, led the top gainers' chart on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) during the first trading week after Eid, which saw only two sessions.
- Market insiders said the sharp rises were largely driven by short-term investor interest and speculative trading. Despite ongoing economic uncertainty stemming from the Middle East conflict, some investors showed renewed appetite for weak, closed, and Z-category stocks.
- A weekly market review showed that International Leasing & Financial Services, Peoples Leasing & Financial Services, FAS Finance & Investment, and Fareast Finance & Investment each posted a 50% gain. However, their share prices remained low, between Tk3.30 and Tk3.60.

WEEKLY TOP GAINERS		
	RETURN (%)	CLOSE PRICE (TAKA)
Peoples Leasing	50	3.60
FAS Finance	50	3.60
Fareast Finance	50	3.60
Premier Leasing	42.31	3.70
Familytex	27.59	3.70
HR Textile	25	22
Meghna Condensed Milk	23.61	35.60
Meghna Pet Industries	22.92	29.50
Prime Finance	17.39	5.40

- Analysts noted that these financial institutions have long faced losses, high non-performing loans, and capital shortages. "The price spikes do not reflect any improvement in fundamentals but rather a tendency among investors to chase quick gains in low-priced stocks," one observer said.
- Premier Leasing & Finance also rose sharply, climbing 42.31% to close at Tk3.70. Analysts believe the simultaneous gains across multiple companies in the same sector point to coordinated buying pressure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/post-eid-rally-sees-struggling-z-category-firms-top-gainers-chart-1396181>

Claims unpaid, confidence shattered: Delays by large insurers erode public trust

The Business Standard, Mar 28, 2026

- Persistent delays in claim settlements by major general insurers are eroding public confidence in Bangladesh's insurance sector, as official data show insurers paid just 9.37% of total claims in the final quarter of 2025.
- Data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) show general insurers settled only Tk372 crore out of claims worth Tk3,971 crore filed between October and December 2025.
- Industry analysts said the massive backlog highlights deep structural weaknesses, including limited financial capacity, poor liquidity management and operational inefficiencies.
- Among the largest insurers, the state-owned Sadharan Bima Corporation recorded the highest volume of pending claims. During the quarter, it faced claims totalling Tk2,264 crore but settled only Tk77 crore, representing just 3.41% of the total. As a result, Tk2,187 crore remained unsettled.
- A senior official of the corporation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the organisation is trying to resolve claims but faces structural obstacles that slow the process.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/claims-unpaid-confidence-shattered-delays-large-insurers-erode-public-trust-1396171>

Alliance Finance keeps default loans below 1% through strong risk management

The Business Standard, Mar 28, 2026

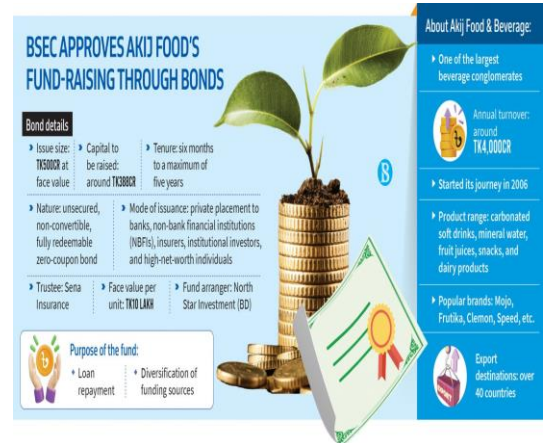
- When the entire financial industry has been grappling with high levels of default loans, Alliance Finance, a joint-venture financial institution with Sri Lanka investment in Bangladesh, has managed to keep its default rate within 1% through prudent risk management.
- In its first four years of operation, the company recorded no default loans at all, said Kanti Kumar Saha, CEO of Alliance Finance, while delivering his address at an event marking the company's eighth anniversary, held at a city hotel today (28 March).
- People's Leasing and Finance, a subsidiary of Sri Lanka's largest state-owned bank, People's Bank, holds a major stake in Alliance Finance. Local sponsors include leading corporates and individuals such as Summit Group, Rang Group, Alliance Holdings Limited, Green Delta Insurance Company Limited and Concept Knitting.
- According to its annual report, the company's loan book stood at over Tk468 crore as of December 2024, while total deposits exceeded Tk432 crore. At a time when most non-bank financial institutions have been struggling to survive amid significant losses, Alliance Finance reported a net asset value per share of Tk11.54 at the end of 2024.
- Jowher Rizvi, chairman of Alliance Finance, credited the management team for maintaining the default loan ratio at around 1% despite various challenges, describing it as a significant achievement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/alliance-finance-keeps-default-loans-within-1-thanks-proper-risk-management-1396006>

Akij Food gets nod for Tk500 crore bond

The Business Standard, Mar 25, 2026

- Akij Food & Beverage Limited, one of the largest beverage conglomerates in Bangladesh, has secured approval from the stock market regulator to issue a Tk500-crore zero-coupon bond, aiming to repay existing loans and diversify its funding sources.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission approved the move at a commission meeting held today (25 March) at its headquarters, allowing Akij Food to raise funds through the bond at face value.
- According to a press release of the commission, the bond will be unsecured, non-convertible, and fully redeemable, with a tenure ranging from six months to a maximum of five years.
- Given the nature of a zero-coupon bond, Akij Food & Beverage will raise approximately Tk388 crore from the capital market and use the entire amount to repay existing loans. However, the company will repay Tk500 crore to investors upon maturity, according to sources involved in the bond issuance.
- The bond will be issued through private placement to banks, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), insurers, institutional investors, and high-net-worth individuals. The face value of each unit of the bond is Tk10 lakh.



BSEC APPROVES AKIJ FOOD'S FUND-RAISING THROUGH BONDS

Bond details

- Issue size: **TK500CR** at face value
- Capital to be raised: around **TK388CR**
- Tenure: six months to a maximum of five years
- Nature: unsecured, non-convertible, fully redeemable zero-coupon bond
- Mode of issuance: private placement to banks, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), insurers, institutional investors, and high-net-worth individuals
- Trustee: Genia Insurance
- Face value per unit: **TK10 LAKH**
- Fund arranger: North Star Investment (BD)

Purpose of the fund:

- Loan repayment
- Diversification of funding sources

About Akij Food & Beverage:

- One of the largest beverage conglomerates
- Annual turnover: around **TK4,000CR**
- Started its journey in 2006
- Product range: carbonated soft drinks, mineral water, fruit juices, snacks, and dairy products
- Popular brands: Mojo, Frutika, Clemon, Speed, etc.
- Export destinations: over 40 countries

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/akij-food-gets-approval-raise-tk500cr-through-bonds-1393731>

Economy & Industry

Two more Chattogram shipbreaking yards secure green certification

The Business Standard, Mar 28, 2026

- Two ship recycling yards in Chattogram have secured green yard certification from certification body ClassNK, taking the total number of such compliant facilities in Bangladesh to 25, according to industry data.
- The newly certified yards — NB Steel, a concern of KR Group in North Salimpur, and Arab Ship Breaking and Recycling Limited of NR Group in South Shitalpur, Sitakunda — received the Statement of Compliance on 18 March.
- With these additions, the number of yards in Bangladesh certified by ClassNK has risen to seven. The others are PHP Ship Breaking and Recycling Industry, Kabir Ship Recycling Facilities, SN Corporation, KR Ship Recycling Yard and HM Shipping Lines.
- A green yard refers to a facility that complies with the International Maritime Organization's guidelines for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling under the Hong Kong Convention.
- Industry insiders said such certification is increasingly becoming a requirement for securing business from leading global shipowners, many of whom now demand strict compliance with environmental and labour standards.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/two-more-chattogram-shipbreaking-yards-secure-green-certification-1395731>

Fuel shortage hurts Chattogram industries

The Business Standard, Mar 28, 2026

- A tightening diesel supply has begun to disrupt operations across key industrial sectors, with manufacturers in Chattogram reporting reduced output and rising costs amid an ongoing fuel crunch.

- Leading steelmaker BSRM Group, which operates six factories in the port city, requires around 35,000 litres of diesel daily to run heavy equipment and maintain production.
- However, company officials say they have been receiving between 18,000 and 27,000 litres from state-run fuel marketing companies in recent weeks. The shortfall has forced the company to scale back operations.
- "Fuel supply is very crucial for heavy industries like steel mills, as most equipment runs on diesel. We are not receiving even half of our required quantity, which is disrupting our operations," Tapan Sen Gupta, deputy managing director of BSRM Group, told The Business Standard.
- He warned that prolonged supply constraints could push up production costs further, compounding price pressures already triggered by the Middle East conflict.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/fuel-shortage-hurts-chattogram-industries-1395531>

BD likely to get \$250m from ADB soon as budgetary support

The Daily Star, Mar 28, 2026

- A sum of US\$250 million may come soon from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Bangladesh as budgetary support, officials say.
- An ADB mission has recently given the green signal to Bangladesh following a spot review of the needs, according to the officials.
- Under the Strengthening Social Resilience Programme (Sub-Programme-2), the Manila-based lender completed a mission before the Eid vacation in a bid to explore the possibility of providing the budget support.
- "The ADB has assured us of providing the budget support. We are hopeful of getting the loan within a couple of months," says a senior Economic Relations Division (ERD) official.
- He says the funding is specifically earmarked for the Strengthening Social Resilience Programme (SSRP) aimed at protecting vulnerable populations against global economic volatility and climate-induced shocks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bd-likely-to-get-250m-from-adb-soon-as-budgetary-support>

International

Dollar rises

The Daily Star, Mar 29, 2026

- The dollar rose on Friday and was on course for its strongest monthly gain in almost a year, buoyed by safe-haven demand as the Middle East war intensifies and hopes fade for de-escalation.
- The yen was particularly under pressure, falling in afternoon trading to its weakest since July 2024 and raising the possibility of currency market intervention by the Japanese authorities.
- Iran is expected to respond on Friday to a US peace proposal to end the war, with US President Donald Trump and senior White House officials told by interlocutors to expect a counter-proposal.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the war was expected to last weeks, rather than months, and that US objectives could be met without ground troops.
- US consumer sentiment slipped to a three-month low in March as war-driven oil price rises weighed on the economic outlook.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-rises-4137786>

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Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

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