

## Key News

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## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks fall for second straight session amid geopolitical turmoil

The Business Standard, Mar 29, 2026

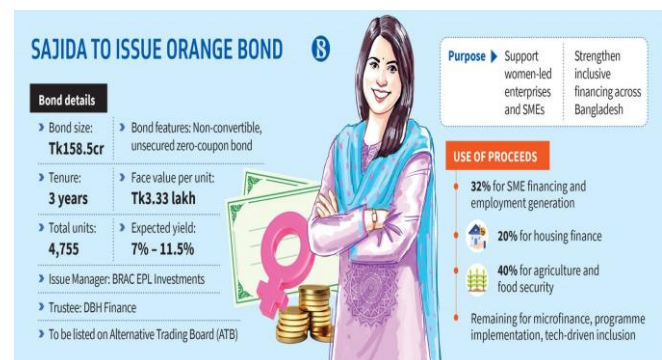
- Dhaka Stock Exchange witnessed a second consecutive session of losses today (30 March) as persistent sell-offs, fueled by rising US-Israeli tensions over Iran, dragged the benchmark index down. The DSEX fell 41 points to close at 5,230.
- Despite declining prices for 59% of listed stocks, turnover slightly increased by 2.69% to Tk663.87 crore, according to DSE data. The other key indices also ended lower, with the DSES down 5 points to 1,061 and the blue-chip DS30 falling 19 points to 1,979. Among traded stocks, 111 advanced, 231 declined, and 51 remained unchanged.
- Trading opened on a positive note at 10 am but lasted only seven minutes before selling pressure gripped the market, pushing indices into the red. Selling intensified in the latter part of the session, keeping stocks under pressure throughout the day.
- EBL Securities said in its daily report that investor sentiment remained cautious amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and a nationwide fuel shortage.
- "The market continued its losing streak for the second consecutive session, as investors shifted focus from large-cap stocks to momentum-driven speculative scrips," the report said. "Despite a firm start, broad-based selling emerged midway through the session, intensifying toward the close and dragging the index lower."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-fall-second-straight-session-amid-geopolitical-turmoil-1398136>

### Sajida Foundation gets nod to raise Tk158.5cr through Orange bond for women empowerment

The Business Standard, Mar 30, 2026

- Development organisation Sajida Foundation has got regulatory approval to raise Tk158.5 crore through a non-convertible, unsecured zero-coupon bond aimed at expanding financial inclusion and strengthening women-led enterprises and SME financing across Bangladesh.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission approved this in a meeting held in Dhaka today (30 March).
- The proposed instrument, titled "Sajida Orange Zero-Coupon Bond," is designed as a social impact financing tool to support long-term development initiatives. The bond will be issued through private placement and is intended to channel funds into women-focused economic empowerment programmes.



**SAJIDA TO ISSUE ORANGE BOND**

**Bond details**

- Bond size: **Tk158.5cr**
- Bond features: Non-convertible, unsecured zero-coupon bond
- Tenure: **3 years**
- Face value per unit: **Tk3.33 lakh**
- Total units: **4,755**
- Expected yield: **7% - 11.5%**
- Issue Manager: BRAC EPL Investments
- Trustee: DBH Finance
- To be listed on Alternative Trading Board (ATB)

**Purpose**

- Support women-led enterprises and SMEs
- Strengthen inclusive financing across Bangladesh

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

- 32% for SME financing and employment generation
- 20% for housing finance
- 40% for agriculture and food security
- Remaining for microfinance, programme implementation, tech-driven inclusion

- Earlier, Sajida Foundation raised Tk198 crore through a zero-coupon bond in 2024 and Tk100 crore through a green zero-coupon bond in 2021, reflecting its gradual shift towards capital market-based financing to reduce donor dependency and scale up development activities.
- Zahida Fizza Kabir, chief executive officer (CEO) of Sajida Foundation, told The Business Standard, "The Orange bond is a vital tool that allows us to scale our impact by mobilising domestic capital to meet the essential needs of underserved women in Bangladesh."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sajida-foundation-gets-nod-raise-tk1585cr-through-orange-bond-women-empowerment>

## City Sugar gets approval for Tk1,300cr mortgage-backed bond

The Business Standard, Mar 30, 2026

- The approval was granted by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) at a meeting today (30 March), according to a press release.
- The proposed bond will be secured and mortgage-backed, non-convertible, and fully redeemable, with an estimated discount rate of around 13.50%. Under the structure, the company will provide land as collateral, offering enhanced security to investors.
- The bond will be issued through private placement to corporate entities, high-net-worth individuals, banks, financial institutions, and insurance companies. Each unit of the bond will carry a face value of Tk13 lakh.
- Officials said the proceeds from the bond issuance will be used to repay existing liabilities with various banks and financial institutions, helping the company restructure its debt and improve financial stability.
- BRAC EPL Investments Limited has been appointed as the trustee of the bond, while BRAC Bank will act as the arranger. The bond is also expected to be listed on the Alternative Trading Board, providing a platform for secondary market trading.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/city-sugar-gets-approval-tk1300cr-mortgage-backed-bond-1398086>

## BSEC approves bond issuance by Akij Food & Beverage

The Financial Express, Mar 30, 2026

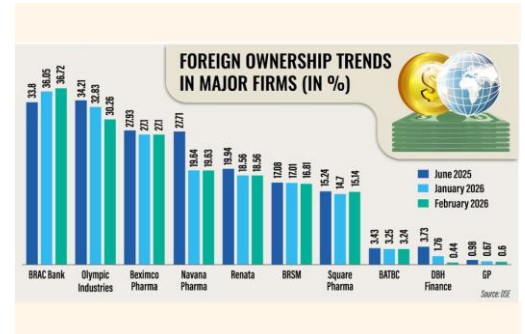
- The securities regulator has approved a proposal from non-listed Akij Food & Beverage Ltd to raise Tk 5 billion by issuing zero-coupon bonds, a move that reflects the growing reliance of large corporations on alternative financing instruments.
- Financial literacy course
- According to the regulatory approval, the bond will be unsecured, non-convertible, and fully redeemable. Unlike conventional bonds, this instrument does not offer periodic interest payments. Instead, the bond is issued at a discounted price and redeemed at full face value upon maturity, allowing investors to earn a fixed return.
- The approval came at a meeting of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) last week, presided over by its Chairman Khondoker Rashed Maqsood.
- The tenure of the bond will range from six months to 60 months, providing flexibility for investors with varying investment horizons.
- The bond units will be issued through private placement to banks, non-bank financial institutions, insurance companies, institutional investors, and high net-worth individuals. Each unit will carry a face value of Tk 1 million, effectively limiting participation to large-scale investors.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-approves-bond-issuance-by-akij-food-beverage>

## Foreign investors keep pulling out as uncertainty weighs on market

The Financial Express, Mar 30, 2026

- Foreign investors have continued withdrawing funds from Bangladesh's equity market over the past nine months through February this year amid persistent geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic uncertainties.
- Political stability following the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's landslide victory in the February polls has failed to attract foreign investment, as intensifying conflict in the Middle East poses fresh economic challenges.
- Md Akramul Alam, head of research at Royal Capital, said overall economic activity remained sluggish amid continued uncertainty, while the profitability of major listed companies stayed subdued due to high input costs.
- "Persistent macroeconomic uncertainties and ongoing geopolitical tensions discouraged overseas investors from making fresh investments in stocks," he said.
- Moreover, private sector credit growth fell to a historic low of 6.03 per cent in January, reflecting weak business confidence and tighter lending conditions, he added.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/foreign-investors-keep-pulling-out-as-uncertainty-weighs-on-market>

## Economy & Industry

### Entrepreneurs seek regular budget allocation for SME sector

The Business Standard, Mar 30, 2026

- Entrepreneurs have called for regular budget allocation for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to support development and employment generation.
- The demand was raised at the 20th annual general meeting of the SME Foundation held at Parjatan Bhaban in Agargaon today (30 March), according to a press release.
- The meeting, chaired by SME Foundation Chairperson and Industries Secretary Md Obaidur Rahman, approved the board report, audited financial statements and auditor's report for FY25, as well as the budget for 2026–27.
- Members of the general body said SME Foundation programmes have played an important role in supporting micro, small and medium enterprises despite various challenges.
- They said the foundation should be declared a coordinating agency to achieve government goals and called for dedicated budget allocation each year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/entrepreneurs-seek-regular-budget-allocation-sme-sector-1398066>

### ILO-Bimco launch injury protection scheme for shipbreaking workers in Bangladesh

The Business Standard, Mar 30, 2026

- A new Employment Injury Scheme (EIS), backed by global maritime stakeholders, has been launched to improve safety and compensation for workers in Bangladesh's hazardous ship recycling industry.
- Jointly developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Bimco, the pilot scheme will provide financial and medical support to injured workers. ILO Senior Adviser Anne Maria La Rosa announced the initiative on March 25.
- Ship recycling is vital to the global maritime supply chain, but yard conditions remain hazardous, with exposure to toxic substances and frequent accidents. Despite its economic importance, Bangladesh's employer-liability system has failed to ensure consistent compensation and social protection, leaving a persistent safety gap.

- The new scheme seeks to address this by introducing a pooled insurance mechanism funded by shipowners. Under the model, risks are shared across the industry, allowing injured workers – or families in case of death – to receive timely compensation aligned with international standards.
- The EIS will operate as a voluntary, interim arrangement. Shipowners sending vessels for recycling in Bangladesh can contribute \$0.50 per light displacement tonnage by signing a Letter of Intent facilitated by Bimco.

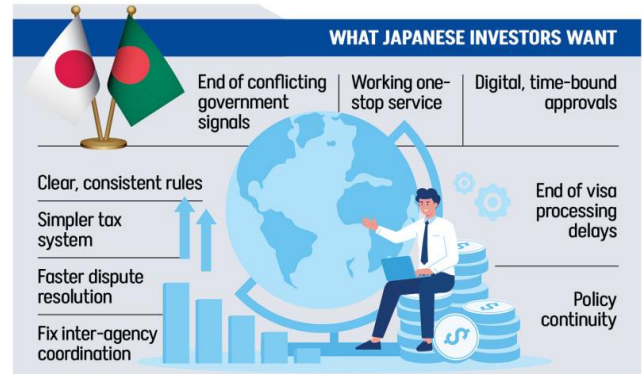
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/ilo-bimco-launch-injury-protection-scheme-shipbreaking-workers-bangladesh-1397136>

## International

### Japanese investors want tax, regulatory reforms

The Daily Star, Mar 31, 2026

- speaking at an event at The Westin Dhaka, marking the Japan Business Day, they argued that without policy continuity, transparent administration, and reliable dispute resolution, long-term investment decisions remain at risk. The programme was jointly organised by the Embassy of Japan, Bangladesh and Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro).
- “Clear, consistent and fairly applied rules are vital to improve Bangladesh’s investment climate. Uncertainty often outweighs product competitiveness,” said Manabu Sugawara, president of Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Dhaka (JCIAD), commonly known as Shoo-Koo-Kai.
- He identified tax reform as a priority, calling for simpler procedures, clearer interpretations and reduced discretionary practices, alongside faster services and reliable dispute resolution.
- Sugawara highlighted poor coordination among government agencies, saying conflicting directives create delays and raise costs for investors.
- He also urged a functional one-stop service with fully digital, streamlined and time-bound approvals, licensing and renewals. Pointing to persistent visa and permit delays, he said such bottlenecks must be resolved quickly.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/japanese-investors-want-tax-regulatory-reforms-4139596>

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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).

## BASL Research Team

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Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury  
Head of Research & Investments                      tushar@basl-bd.com

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Mr. Shohidul Islam  
Research Analyst    shohidul@basl-bd.com

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Mr. Kawser Mohammad Emon  
Research Associate    emon@basl-bd.com

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Supervised by:  
Mr. Sumon Das, Chief Executive Officer

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## BASL Network

### Head Office

Hadi Mansion (2nd Floor)  
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Phone: +88-02-9515826-28  
E-mail: info@basl-bd.com

### Dhanmondi Branch

Meher Plaza (1st Floor),  
House # 13/A, Road # 05  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1207  
Phone: +8802-44611923-24

### Mirpur Branch

Nishi Plaza, plot # 01,  
Avenue-04, Section-06,  
Block-C  
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216  
Phone: +8802-58055449,  
48032449

### Uttara Branch

House # 79/A, (4th Floor),  
Road # 07, Sector # 04  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-  
1230  
Phone: +88-02-  
48958389,48958371

### Banani Branch

Nur Empori, Plot # 77 (1st  
Floor), Road No # 11,  
Banani,  
Dhaka-1213  
Phone: +88028836155,  
8836849

### Nikunja Branch

DSE Tower, Level 10, Room#  
200, Nikunja, Dhaka-1229  
Phone: +8809666702070

### Chattogram Branch

Bank Asia Bhaban (3rd  
Floor)  
39, Agrabad Commercial  
Area  
Chattogram-4001  
Tel : +8801730338091

### Khulna Branch

28, Sir Iqbal Road (1st Floor)  
Khulna  
Phone: +88-041-731208-9

### Bogura Digital Booth

Jamil Shopping Center (3rd  
Floor), 288/325 Rangpur  
Road,  
Bogura City Corporation,  
Bogura Sadar, Bogura.

### Rajshahi Digital Booth

Chamber Bhabon(2nd  
Floor), Station Road , Alok  
Moor,  
Rajshahi-6100.

For International Trade & Sales, please call at +8801993111666, +880 02 9515826, Ext: 101 at Business hour. For further query, write to us at [research@basl-bd.com](mailto:research@basl-bd.com).