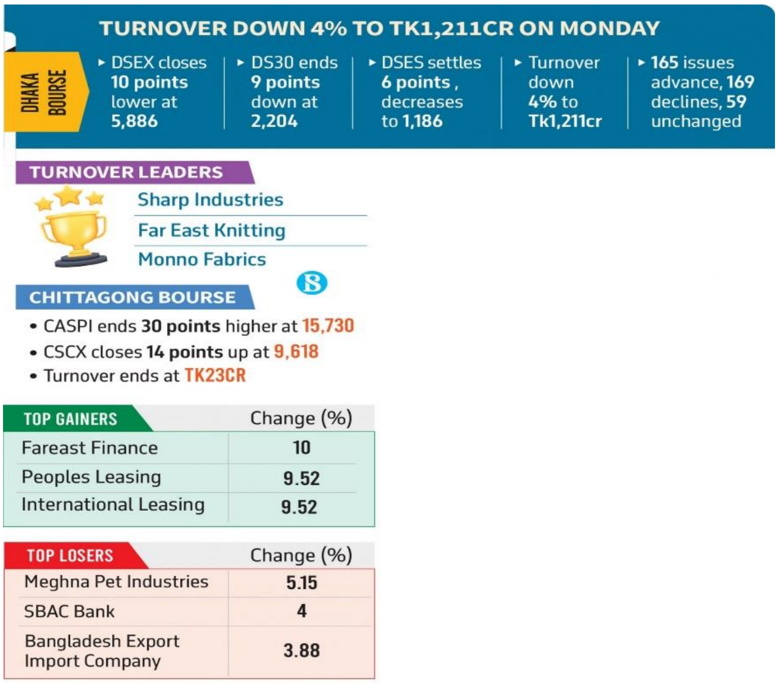
Key News

- [DSEX slips below 5,900 as gas shortages, Middle East tensions weigh on sentiment]
- [Aamra Technologies shares jump 65% in two months; company cites no undisclosed PSI]
- [Sharp Industries rallies 132% in just six weeks despite Tk65cr loss]
- [General insurers post stronger Q2 earnings on lower costs, improved underwriting]
- [Hakkani Pulp draws up Tk 33.2m modernisation plan]
- [BGMEA calls garment factory shutdown reports baseless]
- [1 percent turnover tax: revenue reform or a new burden on SMEs?]
- [Holcim to sell Philippines unit to China's Huaxin in $807m deal]

Stock Market & Company

DSEX slips below 5,900 as gas shortages, Middle East tensions weigh on sentiment

The Business Standard, Aug 03, 2026



- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) ended lower today (3 August), with the benchmark index slipping below the psychological 5,900-point mark as persistent gas supply shortages, escalating tensions in the Middle East and uncertainty over the draft margin loan rules dampened investor sentiment.
- After moving in a narrow range for most of the session, the market came under renewed selling pressure in the second half of trading. Market analysts said that while Bangladesh Bank's accommodative monetary policy and the government's efforts to ease the energy crisis have offered some support, lingering uncertainties continue to keep investors cautious.
- The benchmark DSEX index shed 10.62 points, or 0.18%, to close at 5,886. The blue-chip DS30 index fell 9.06 points to 2,204, while the DSES Shariah Index lost 6.18 points to finish at 1,186.
- Turnover on the premier bourse also declined, dropping 3.74% from the previous session to Tk1,211 crore.
- Among the 393 issues traded, 165 advanced, 169 declined and 59 remained unchanged. Although gainers and losers were nearly evenly matched, stronger selling pressure toward the close dragged the market into negative territory.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-slips-below-5900-gas-shortages-middle-east-tensions-weigh-sentiment-1505866

Aamra Technologies shares jump 65% in two months; company cites no undisclosed PSI

The Business Standard, Aug 03, 2026

- Shares of IT sector-listed Aamra Technologies have surged 65% over the past two months, but the company says there is no undisclosed price-sensitive information (PSI) behind the sharp rise.
- Following the unusual increase in the share price and trading volume, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) separately sought explanations from the company.
- In replies to the DSE's query dated 12 July and the CSE's query dated 2 August, Aamra Technologies said it is not aware of any undisclosed price-sensitive information that could have influenced the recent movement in its share price or trading volume.
- The company said there had been no significant changes in its business operations, financial position or future plans that could explain the rally.The stock closed at Tk21.40 on the DSE today (3 August).

https://www.tbsnews.net/node/1505861

Sharp Industries rallies 132% in just six weeks despite Tk65cr loss

The Business Standard, Aug 03, 2026

- Shares of loss-making Sharp Industries have surged 132.35% in just six weeks despite the company reporting a net loss of Tk65 crore in the first nine months of FY2025-26.
- Trading in the stock has also increased sharply, although the company says there is no undisclosed price-sensitive information (PSI) behind the rally.
- According to data from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), Sharp Industries' share price rose from Tk17 on 15 June to Tk39.50 on 3 August, gaining Tk22.50 during the period.
- The unusual rise in both the share price and trading volume prompted the DSE to seek an explanation from the company on 13 July.
- In its response, Sharp Industries said there had been no material developments, including changes in business operations, financial condition, new investments, asset sales, mergers, restructuring or any other corporate event, that could explain the recent surge in its share price.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sharp-industries-rallies-132-just-six-weeks-despite-tk65cr-loss-1505841

General insurers post stronger Q2 earnings on lower costs, improved underwriting

The Business Standard, Aug 03, 2026

- Most listed non-life insurance companies in Bangladesh posted stronger earnings in the April-June quarter of 2026, driven by lower operating costs following the zero-commission policy, improved underwriting, stronger marine insurance business and higher investment income, industry stakeholders said.
- An analysis of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) data shows that 41 of the country's 43 listed non-life insurers have so far published their unaudited April-June financial statements.
- Of them, 31 reported higher earnings per share (EPS), while 10 posted lower EPS. Two companies have yet to disclose their quarterly results.

NON-LIFE INSURANCE PERFORMANCE

Biggest Gainers in Apr-Jun *(EPS in Taka)*	2025	2026	Changes
Islami Commercial Insurance	0.14	0.63	350%
Express Insurance	0.14	0.53	279%
Asia Insurance	0.11	0.33	200%
Global Insurance	0.25	0.71	184%
Phoenix Insurance	0.29	0.80	176%

Biggest Losers in Apr-Jun *(EPS in Taka)*	2025	2026	Changes
Sonar Bangla	0.45	0.26	-42%
Republic Insurance	0.63	0.54	-14%
Northern Islami Insurance	0.33	0.30	-9%
Mercantile Islami Insurance	0.11	0.10	-9%
Purabi Gen. Insurance	0.45	0.41	-9%

Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE)

- The stronger earnings have also lifted investor sentiment, with shares of several insurers rising after the release of their quarterly results.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/general-insurers-post-stronger-q2-earnings-lower-costs-improved-underwriting-1505001

Hakkani Pulp draws up Tk 33.2m modernisation plan

The Financial Express, Aug 03, 2026

- Hakkani Pulp & Paper Mills is set to invest a total of Tk 33.2 million to modernise its paper production process and secure lower-cost, sustainable energy for its factory operations.
- Of the total investment, Tk 7.2 million will be spent on replacing an ageing pulp-processing machine, while another Tk 26 million will be invested in a rooftop solar power system.
- The listed paper manufacturer informed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) of the investment plan on Sunday, stating that its board of directors approved procurement of an FTC500 Twin Screw Press, also known as a Double Helix Crowded Pulp Machine, for its paper manufacturing unit.
- The estimated cost of the machine, including installation, is Tk 7.2 million, which will be financed entirely from the company's internal resources.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/hakkani-pulp-draws-up-tk-332m-modernisation-plan

Economy & Industry

BGMEA calls garment factory shutdown reports baseless

The Daily Star, Aug 03, 2026

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday dismissed as "untrue" and "baseless" reports claiming that garment factories were shutting down because of gas shortages.
- In a statement, the trade body said factories were not closing due to the gas crisis, although many were operating at only 60 percent to 70 percent of their capacity.
- It also rejected reports involving DBL Group, describing claims that the company had shut its factories because of the gas shortage as "completely false and baseless".
- The statement said such misinformation was creating confusion among stakeholders, including international clothing retailers and brands, while undermining the stability of Bangladesh's garment industry.
- Many factories will remain closed on Thursday after adjusting their work schedules to coincide with the government holiday on 5 August and the weekly holiday, in accordance with applicable labour regulations.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bgmea-calls-garment-factory-shutdown-reports-baseless-4239231

1 percent turnover tax: revenue reform or a new burden on SMEs?

The Daily Star, Aug 03, 2026

- Bangladesh’s low tax-to-GDP ratio highlights the need for greater revenue to fund infrastructure, social welfare and development. However, revenue measures must not undermine investment, employment or voluntary compliance.
- The mandatory turnover tax on non-corporate businesses and professionals has therefore become a major concern among taxpayers. Under Section 163(6) of the Income Tax Act, 2023, as amended by the Finance Act, 2026, taxpayers must pay the prescribed turnover tax when their normal income-tax liability is lower.
- The tax applies to gross receipts, even when losses are incurred. The general rate is 1 percent, with sector-specific variations and a 0.2 percent rate for newly established industrial undertakings during their first three years.

- The issue is not whether businesses should pay tax. The real question is whether gross sales or gross receipts (essentially, turnover) are an appropriate basis for determining tax liability, particularly for small and low-margin enterprises. Income tax is normally levied on net profit, the amount that remains after legitimate business expenses have been deducted.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/1-percent-turnover-tax-revenue-reform-or-new-burden-smes-4239171

International

Holcim to sell Philippines unit to China's Huaxin in $807m deal

The Business Standard, Aug 03, 2026

- Swiss building materials supplier Holcim Group said on Sunday it plans to sell its Philippines business to China's Huaxin Building Materials in a deal that could raise at least $807 million.
- Holcim will sell an initial 68% stake for $527 million with the remainder to be sold over the next three to five years for a minimum price of $280 million.
- This would lead to an overall valuation of $807 million, although the figure could rise "based on incremental value creation during this period," Holcim said.
- The Business Standard Google News Keep updated, follow The Business Standard's Google news channel
- The sale, which is expected to be completed in the first half of 2027, is Holcim's biggest divestment since it sold its Nigeria business, also to Huaxin Cement, in a $1 billion deal in December 2024.
- Money raised from the sale of the Philippines business will be used to fund large acquisitions and also further investment in Holcim's existing business.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/hakkani-pulp-draws-up-tk-332m-modernisation-plan

BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

Bank Asia SECURITIES LIMITED

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