TOP NEWS

DSE summons top 30 brokerages today to tackle prolonged market rout

The Dhaka Stock Exchange has called the country's top 30 brokerage houses to a meeting at its office today, chaired by DSE Chairman Mominul Islam, to confront a prolonged slide in the market. The bourse wants participants to analyse the drivers behind the severe price corrections, devise actionable strategies to halt the slide and explore immediate steps to rebuild investor trust. The move follows heightened volatility, aggressive selling pressure, thinning retail participation and stagnant turnover: the DSEX shed 97 points on Monday after a 103-point fall on 7 September, while daily turnover dropped 24% to Tk545 crore. DSE management and the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh held preliminary discussions before the meeting was called.

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DSEX falls below 5,400 to three-month low as losing streak extends to five days

The DSEX fell 39 points to close at 5,379 on Monday, a three-month low that stretched the losing streak to five sessions and 188 points, with the index swinging between 5,454 and 5,376 during the day. The DS30 lost 9 points to 2,062 and market capitalisation shrank by about Tk6,400 crore, while turnover slipped 15% to Tk486 crore. Textiles dominated trading at 25.4% of turnover, ahead of general insurance at 15% and banks at 13.4%. Mutual funds fell 3.5%, life insurance 3.2% and miscellaneous stocks 2.7%, against gains of 0.6% in travel and 0.2% in banking. Standard Insurance (6.79%), Bangladesh National Insurance (5.71%) and Al-Arafah Islami Bank (5.36%) led the gainers, while CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund (-8.86%), Beximco (-8.01%) and Standard Ceramic (-7.24%) led the losers. On the Chittagong bourse the CSCX fell 84 points to 8,908 and the CASPI 161 points to 14,553 on turnover of Tk21.34 crore. Market participants said persistent concerns over the energy situation and renewed geopolitical tensions kept investors on the sidelines.

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BB auctions greenback in first such market intervention

Bangladesh Bank sold dollars through an auction for the first time, offering $20 million and selling $11.50 million to five banks at rates ranging from Tk122.80 to Tk123.35 as it moved to steady the exchange rate against rising import payment obligations and softer remittance inflows. “We've sold US$11.50 million to five banks through an auction for the first time in Bangladesh,” a senior central bank official said, with another adding that the regulator has “been monitoring the market closely to ensure the exchange rate stability.” The rate had climbed to Tk123.35 by noon on Monday; the taka weakened 4.0 paisa to Tk123.20 a dollar, against Tk123.03 on Thursday. The central bank's previous foreign exchange intervention was a purchase of $171 million on 13 July 2025.

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Oil markets survived the sprint, now comes the marathon

Nearly seven months into a war that began in February 2026, oil markets have absorbed the initial shock but face a longer test, with crude holding above $100 a barrel and President Donald Trump now predicting the conflict will end only after the 3 November midterm elections, a notable shift from an administration that initially suggested the war would last weeks, not months. Saudi Arabia pumped 6 million barrels per day in August, its lowest in more than 30 years, and shipments through the East-West pipeline fell to 2 million bpd, the least since January, against the 4–5 million bpd it moved in the first five months. Exports through the Strait of Hormuz are running at about 5 million bpd, roughly a quarter of pre-war levels, and refined product exports are nearly 60% below pre-war volumes, from a region that supplied about 20% of global output. Global inventories have drained by 507 million barrels, or 2.8 million bpd, since the war began.

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Gas supply to improve today as Chevron agrees to drill new wells with Bapex

Gas supply is set to rise to 950–1,000 mmcfd from the 764 mmcfd recorded at 4:00pm on Monday, as the floating storage and regasification unit that has been out of service returns towards its 600 mmcfd capacity. The unit shut on 21 July 2026 after a fire damaged its boiler system, and the terminal stopped supplying gas on 19 August amid an LNG cargo shortage. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave the assurance at a meeting with business leaders on Monday, a day after a high-level Chevron delegation led by Javier La Rosa, president for Base Assets and Emerging Countries, met him and agreed to drill new wells jointly with Bapex, part of plans for about 150 wells followed by another 150. The government has released Tk6,000 crore of the Tk14,000 crore owed to furnace oil-based power plants, which together with coal plants are generating 3,000–3,500MW against 5,637MW of capacity, while Bangladesh Bank has set up a Tk60,000 crore fund for factories and a third FSRU is targeted for December 2027. FBCCI administrator Fazlul Hoque said business leaders are satisfied with the plan, calling the prime minister's supply assurance the biggest relief.

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Delivering 4,000MW of rooftop solar

Bangladesh's plan to add 4,000MW of rooftop solar within a year needs roughly 24 million square metres of usable roof space and more than $2 billion of capital, and a pipeline of 5,000–6,000MW to allow for delays and dropouts, writes strategic consultant Tariq Alam. The incentive on offer is a time-bound tariff of Tk10.50 per unit for eligible surplus generation, with the window closing in February 2027. For scale, India added about 7,100MW of rooftop solar in 2025 to reach roughly 23,500MW by March 2026. The commentary sets out five requirements: making projects financeable through credit enhancement and standardized contracts; turning distribution utilities into deployment facilitators; opening the market through national accreditation to build scale and competition; guaranteeing predictable grid access through transparent methodologies; and creating a National Rooftop Solar Mission with dedicated oversight. Factories, textile units, warehouses, commercial buildings, schools, hospitals and public facilities are the likely sources of roof space.

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Bangladesh spot LNG nears $30, three times pre-war rates

Spot LNG prices for Bangladesh have reached nearly $30 per MMBtu, close to three times the $10–$12 that prevailed before the Middle East conflict, with the latest approved cargoes priced at $29.795 from Vitol Asia and $28.95 from TotalEnergies Gas & Power — about Tk1,230 crore and Tk1,200 crore respectively at Tk123 to the dollar for a standard 3.36 million MMBtu cargo. Cargoes bought under the direct procurement method are costing $17–$19. Prices have climbed steeply through the month, from $21.778 for a BP Singapore cargo on 4–5 September to $24.25 for TotalEnergies and $24.625 for Posco International, before passing $28. Petrobangla's additional subsidy burden reached Tk10,600 crore in FY2025-26. Supply is recovering to about 2,300 mmcfd against a target of roughly 2,550 mmcfd, with a further 200–250 mmcfd expected, after at least eight of 22 approved August cargoes failed to arrive on time and Accelerate Energy's floating storage unit stopped operating on 19 August.

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Bangla QR misuse raises concerns over MFS sustainability

Mobile financial service operators are warning that misuse of Bangla QR threatens the economics of the platform, with bKash saying, “certain merchants, without selling any goods or services, are providing customers with physical cash.” A customer paying Tk10,000 by QR can receive about Tk9,815 back in cash, against normal MFS cash-out charges of Tk13–18.50 per Tk1,000, because Bangladesh Bank has set a zero-interchange reimbursement fee for Bangla QR. Upay, which pays Tk5–8 per Tk1,000 when its customers transact through other operators, cautioned that smaller operators could find the model difficult to sustain. Average daily transaction value has jumped from more than Tk370 million in July to over Tk1.1 billion in August, following the 30 June 2026 deadline for mandatory Bangla QR replacement; bKash alone has more than 800,000 merchant points. India's UPI, which processed 24.51 billion transactions in August 2024, has recently been allowed to charge selective merchant fees.

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