

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+2.66%) gained 142.98 points and closed the week at 5,517.95 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+3.23%) gained 67.55 points and stood at 2,156.99 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+2.28%) gained 26.87 points and stood at 1,207.20 points. The large cap index CDSET (+2.19%) gained 24.04 points and closed at 1,122.79 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +5.78%, +11.20%, +3.28%, +5.32%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 57.3 billion (USD 470 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 11.5 billion (Δ% Week: +26.3%)

Market P/E: 16.3x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started positively on Sunday (+0.26%) and remained positive on Monday (+1.23%), but turned negative on Tuesday (-0.12%) and remained negative on Wednesday (-0.10%). However, the week ended on a positive note on Thursday (+1.37%).

Sectoral Performance

· All the financial sectors posted positive performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 10.19% followed by General Insurance (+5.30%), Bank (+1.71%), Mutual Fund (+1.34%), and NBFI (+0.82%).

· All the non-financial (large-cap) sectors posted positive performance this week. Fuel & Power booked the highest gain of 3.75% followed by Pharmaceutical (+2.57%), Telecommunication (+2.07%), Engineering (+1.48%), and Food & Allied (+1.10%).

Macroeconomic Arena

Ctg port to have 4 terminal projects under PPP model. Govt in talks with Aramco to sign MoU. More than a dozen major projects overspend lifespan, needing cure. Formal job market shows signs of rebound after year-long slowdown. MFS | Nagad now destined to be privatised. BANK | 31 banks lost BDT 36 Bn in stock rout last year. MISCELLANEOUS | Anti-dumping duty on Chinese plastics if proof found: secretary. Bida, Bepza secure nearly USD 1 Bn investment proposals in 6 months. Apparel sub-contractors now to get a pie of export incentives. BANK | Steps to be taken to clear export proceeds by crisis-hit banks: Governor. BANK | Bangladesh Bank net profits up 52% in FY25. BANK | Islamic banks' deposit, market share see downtrends. TEXTILE | BGMEA makes unit price declaration mandatory for UD certificates.

FUEL & POWER | BRAC EPL Investments partners with Paramount Solar to boost renewable energy expansion. FDI rose 20% in FY25. Development works slow as only 75 projects cleared last fiscal. BDT appreciates after years of depreciation. ADB outpaces WB, provides USD 2.52 Bn in FY25. ENGINEERING | Pran-RFL invests BDT 2 Bn as locally made lifts gain traction. JUTE | Jute spinners demand raw jute export ban, mandatory jute packaging. RMG | RMG makers seek increase in incentive rates. TEXTILE | Large manufacturing contracts marginally in June. TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Consolidated licensing, cap on foreign ownership likely.

Stock Market Arena

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank posts profit despite regulatory clampdown, surging NPLs. BEXIMCO | Regulator to probe use of BEXIMCO bond proceeds. ICB | ICB seeks 5-year extension for BDT 9 Bn special fund. ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank declares no dividend; profit drops 83% in 2024. EXCHANGE | Yield rates on two BGTBs fall further. JMISMDL | JMI launches Apollo Clinic in Dhaka. SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank's former chairman offloads major stake. RAHIMAFood | Rahima Food suspends production amid supply shortages and market challenges. BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's net deposit growth hits BDT 100 Bn in eight months. EXCHANGE | Offloading shares of profitable SoEs, 10 MNCs ordered.

DSEX ended in Green (+2.66%) in the week

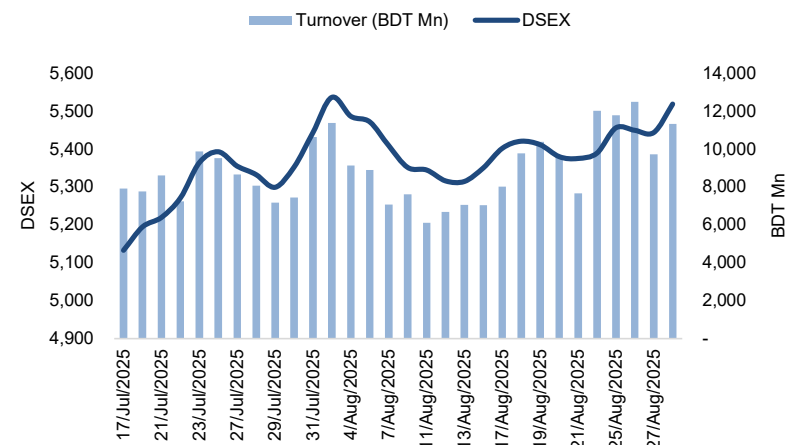
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,517.95	5,374.96	+142.98	5,216.44	2.66%	5.78%
DS30	2,156.99	2,089.44	+67.55	1,939.73	3.23%	11.20%
DSES	1,207.20	1,180.34	+26.87	1,168.90	2.28%	3.28%
CDSET	1,122.79	1,098.75	+24.04	1,066.09	2.19%	5.32%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	7,183,560	7,081,813	1.44%
	Mn USD	58,986	58,150	
Turnover	Mn BDT	57,296	45,357	26.32%
	Mn USD	470	372	
Average Daily	Mn BDT	11,459	9,071	26.32%
	Mn USD	94	74	
Volume	Mn Shares	1,770	1,380	28.27%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ISNLTD	105.7	72.6	+45.6%	1,154	586.7	NM	38.4x
TILIL	83.2	62.7	+32.7%	3,328	674.6	NM	NM
EPGL	22.5	17.0	+32.4%	4,279	214.2	NM	0.6x
PROGRESLIF	62.5	48.4	+29.1%	1,040	47.3	NM	NM
MONNOFABR	19.7	15.9	+23.9%	2,266	484.1	NM	0.8x
SONALIPAPR	280.7	229.4	+22.4%	9,248	1,098.9	27.2x	1.7x
PTL	57.4	47.4	+21.1%	10,281	335.9	8.6x	1.3x
SINOBANGLA	53.7	45.2	+18.8%	1,627	530.2	42.2x	2.1x
SPCL	50.6	42.6	+18.8%	9,444	547.7	NM	1.3x
ZAHINTEX	5.9	5.0	+18.0%	483	20.1	NM	0.8x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
FASFIN	1.6	2.4	-33.3%	239	1.7	NM	NM
FAREASTFIN	2.0	2.9	-31.0%	328	11.8	NM	NM
PREMIERLEA	1.8	2.5	-28.0%	239	2.0	NM	NM
ILFSL	1.9	2.6	-26.9%	421	3.6	NM	NM
PRIMEFIN	2.8	3.8	-26.3%	764	12.6	NM	0.4x
BIFC	4.1	5.5	-25.5%	413	3.1	NM	NM
PLFSL	1.5	1.9	-21.1%	428	5.5	NM	NM
GSPFINANCE	3.5	4.3	-18.6%	550	11.7	NM	0.3x
GIB	2.3	2.7	-14.8%	2,385	19.0	NM	NM
SHURWID	5.9	6.9	-14.5%	338	7.5	NM	0.5x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
CITYBANK	25.3	23.8	+6.3%	38,487	1,443.6	3.5x	0.7x
MALEKSPIN	33.8	30.5	+10.8%	6,544	1,177.9	4.6x	0.6x
BSC	120.2	121.8	-1.3%	18,335	1,136.5	6.1x	1.2x
SONALIPAPR	280.7	229.4	+22.4%	9,248	1,098.9	27.2x	1.7x
BXPBARMA	130.7	128.0	+2.1%	58,307	1,052.6	9.1x	1.2x
BEACONPHAR	142.8	122.3	+16.8%	32,987	1,046.4	38.5x	5.1x
BEACHHATCH	56.3	55.4	+1.6%	2,331	1,019.4	12.0x	3.4x
AIL	58.1	53.2	+9.2%	2,828	944.2	21.5x	2.4x
ORIONINFU	519.7	524.4	-0.9%	10,581	897.8	NM	33.1x
TILIL	83.2	62.7	+32.7%	3,328	674.6	NM	NM

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BRACBANK	71.4	+63.9%	142,152	10.0x	1.7x
BXPBARMA	130.7	+60.2%	58,307	9.1x	1.2x
ACI	192.7	+38.3%	16,925	NM	2.9x
ENVOYTEX	54.4	+38.1%	9,125	7.8x	1.0x
BSRMSTEEL	69.3	+36.4%	26,054	5.9x	0.8x
ESQUIRENIT	26.0	+33.3%	3,507	11.1x	0.4x
IDLC	40.5	+30.0%	17,678	7.6x	0.9x
MARICO	2,931.8	+28.4%	92,352	15.1x	27.7x
CITYBANK	25.3	+27.5%	38,487	3.5x	0.7x
DOREENPWR	30.2	+26.4%	5,470	11.5x	0.6x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,522.7	1,497.1	1,429.64	+1.71%	+6.51%
NBFI	1,093.2	1,084.3	1,188.21	+0.82%	-8.00%
Mutual Fund	569.8	562.2	603.30	+1.34%	-5.56%
General Insurance	2,949.8	2,801.5	2,772.79	+5.30%	+6.38%
Life Insurance	2,078.1	1,885.9	1,827.34	+10.19%	+13.72%
Telecommunication	4,989.8	4,888.7	5,185.99	+2.07%	-3.78%
Pharmaceutical	3,226.3	3,145.5	2,959.70	+2.57%	+9.01%
Fuel & Power	1,203.8	1,160.3	1,108.63	+3.75%	+8.58%
Cement	2,147.4	2,060.2	1,957.26	+4.23%	+9.71%
Services & Real Estate	1,105.0	1,019.6	1,013.65	+8.38%	+9.02%
Engineering	2,571.2	2,533.8	2,496.75	+1.48%	+2.98%
Food & Allied	15,083.5	14,918.7	17,177.59	+1.10%	-12.19%
IT	2,045.5	1,927.1	1,994.92	+6.15%	+2.53%
Textile	1,243.3	1,151.3	1,093.38	+7.99%	+13.71%
Paper & Printing	5,710.5	5,187.9	3,998.20	+10.07%	+42.83%
Tannery	2,104.9	2,120.5	2,020.25	-0.74%	+4.19%
Jute	14,008.4	14,388.7	14,455.60	-2.64%	-3.09%
Ceramics	420.2	400.0	359.12	+5.06%	+17.02%
Miscellaneous	4,138.7	4,119.3	4,252.62	+0.47%	-2.68%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	1,008.2	1,022.7	-1.42%	+8.94%	NM	0.8x
NBFI	177.4	179.6	-1.22%	+1.57%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	112.0	107.5	+4.19%	+0.99%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	910.8	425.8	+113.93%	+8.07%	14.2x	1.3x
Life Insurance	616.3	278.2	+121.57%	+5.46%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	191.9	148.6	+29.17%	+1.70%	14.8x	4.3x
Pharmaceutical	1,679.2	1,631.4	+2.93%	+14.88%	14.0x	1.7x
Fuel & Power	643.9	425.7	+51.26%	+5.71%	20.1x	0.7x
Cement	108.7	85.7	+26.85%	+0.96%	23.6x	2.3x
Services & Real Estate	389.3	271.8	+43.22%	+3.45%	28.0x	0.5x
Engineering	1,012.3	804.5	+25.83%	+8.97%	13.7x	0.9x
Food & Allied	852.6	762.4	+11.84%	+7.56%	20.9x	4.4x
IT	475.1	358.9	+32.39%	+4.21%	22.7x	1.7x
Textile	1,642.6	1,034.8	+58.74%	+14.56%	NM	0.9x
Paper & Printing	545.9	461.5	+18.28%	+4.84%	NM	1.2x
Tannery	131.9	124.8	+5.69%	+1.17%	NM	1.7x
Jute	96.3	99.5	-3.18%	+0.85%	NM	NM
Ceramics	149.1	92.1	+61.80%	+1.32%	NM	1.2x
Miscellaneous	540.4	581.8	-7.13%	+4.79%	89.0x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
RECKITT BEN	3,409.8	-21.6%	16,111	21.4x	42.7x
BATBC	290.1	-21.1%	156,654	12.6x	2.9x
POWERGRID	33.7	-19.4%	30,795	NM	0.2x
KPCL	10.6	-19.1%	4,213	31.2x	0.6x
RENATA	516.1	-18.7%	59,195	21.0x	1.7x
BERGERPBL	1,479.5	-14.1%	72,652	20.7x	4.2x
LANKABAFIN	16.3	-12.4%	8,783	16.8x	0.9x
ISLAMIBANK	43.0	-11.2%	69,230	63.2x	1.0x
GPHISPAT	20.4	-7.7%	9,871	25.9x	0.4x
WALTONHIL	451.1	-7.5%	136,651	10.6x	1.2x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Ctg port to have 4 terminal projects under PPP model

- Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is set to implement, upgrade, and operate four major terminal projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, officials say, aiming to elevate the port to international standards and enhance its capacity for future growth.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ctg-port-to-have-4-terminal-projects-under-ppp-model-1756317663>

Govt in talks with Aramco to sign MoU

- The interim government is currently in talks with Saudi oil giant Aramco to ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ensure cooperation in the energy sector. State-run Petrobangla has already prepared a draft of the MoU, which is currently being vetted by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. As per government officials, Aramco has shown interest in supplying LNG to Bangladesh as part of its expanding global export operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-in-talks-with-aramco-to-sign-mou-1756317837>

More than a dozen major projects overspend lifespan, needing cure

- 13 large development projects with an aggregate cost of BDT 924.76 Bn have spent over five years against their approved lifespans, warranting a government review soon for remedies. Official statistics show only one-third financial progress has been made in the projects although their entire sanctioned tenures have expired. Out of the total estimated cost, ministries and divisions managed to spend BDT 308.29 Bn, which accounts for only 33.34% of the funds, according to the document of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/more-than-a-dozen-major-projects-overspend-lifespan-needing-cure-756317946>

Formal job market shows signs of rebound after year-long slowdown

- Bangladesh's formal job market is beginning to rebound after a year of stagnation, with a noticeable increase in job postings in July and August. Experts, however, caution that this recovery may not be enough to meet the overwhelming demand for new jobs, and structural issues, such as the growing dominance of large corporations, continue to pose a threat to long-term employment growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/formal-job-market-shows-signs-rebound-after-year-long-slowdown-1222346>

MFS | Nagad now destined to be privatised

- The much-hyped Nagad is destined to be privatised as part of government plan to bring more competition in the mobile financial services (MFS) sector. Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur disclosed Wednesday the decision made by the post-uprising government, after years of contentions surrounding the state-sector MFS outfit.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nagad-now-destined-to-be-privatised-1756317594>

ENGINEERING | Semiconductor industry creating jobs for BD graduates

- The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) says the country's semiconductor sector is emerging as a major source of jobs for the rising number of Computer Science and Electrical & Electronics Engineering graduates, reports UNB. By 2030, the sector is expected to reach USD 1.3 Tn and will require 1 Mn skilled professionals worldwide by that time.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/more-than-a-dozen-major-projects-overspend-lifespan-needing-cure-1756317946>

TEXTILE | BGMEA opposes providing REX facility to BGBA

- The country's apparel makers have urged the government not to provide the existing Registered Exporter (REX) facility to Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) as such buying houses are not directly involved in production and exporting activities, sources said. According to them, if the REX facility is given to the BGBA, it would not only create a conflict of interest but also cause an unnecessary threat to the country's export sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bgmea-opposes-providing-rex-facility-to-bgba-1756318065>

BANK | 31 banks lost BDT 36 Bn in stock rout last year

- Thirty-one banks suffered combined losses of BDT 36 Bn from their stock market investments last year, largely because of poor decisions, misuse of funds and a sluggish market. State-owned banks were hit the hardest, while private commercial banks also reported losses despite being known for better governance in their core banking operations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/31-banks-lost-tk-3600cr-stock-rout-last-year-3972386>

MISCELLANEOUS | Anti-dumping duty on Chinese plastics if proof found: secretary

- Bangladesh will not hesitate to impose anti-dumping duties if China is found to be selling plastics in the country at a lower price than the normal value, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said in response to complaints from local businesses yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/anti-dumping-duty-chinese-plastics-if-proof-found-secretary-3972296>

Over 80% businesses find current tax rates 'unfair'

- 82% of businesses consider the current tax rate "unfair" and a major obstacle to growth, according to a survey conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The survey found that 79% of participating businesses identified lack of accountability among tax officials as a major problem, while 72% cited corruption in tax administration as their primary obstacle.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-80pc-businesses-find-current-tax-rates-unfair-1756230969>

NBR suspends manual VAT audits to curb graft: NBR chief

- National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced that manual selection of Value Added Tax (VAT) returns for auditing will remain suspended indefinitely, if necessary, to prevent any scope for corruption in file selection. "The scrutiny would stay halted until the NBR develops an automated, risk-based audit system for VAT files," NBR Chairman said on Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-suspends-manual-vat-audits-to-curb-graft-nbr-chief-1756231153>

BB releases 100 Mn new notes, but scarcity persists

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has released more than 100 Mn new banknotes since June 1 this year, but those are hardly seen in the market. The central bank began issuing notes of BDT 1,000, 50, and 20 denominations in early June, followed by BDT 100 on August 12. So far, 36.2 Mn pieces of BDT 20, 39.2 Mn of BDT 50, 25 Mn of BDT 1,000, and 0.1 million of BDT 100 notes have been released.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-releases-100m-new-notes-but-scarcity-persists-1756231307>

ADP shortfalls expose inept handling in health ministry

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare needs reform, as officials say its decade-long underperformance - the worst among government agencies - has left Bangladesh's health services increasingly vulnerable, with only 21% of development projects implemented in the fiscal year 2024-25. Analysts say that although the government has increased budget allocations year-on-year, the health ministry, one of the country's key stakeholders, has repeatedly failed to execute its projects effectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adp-shortfalls-expose-inept-handling-in-health-ministry-1756231532>

Dhaka, Seoul move for newer ties, strategic partnership

- Bangladesh and South Korea pledge to take their longstanding friendship to new highs as they agree to explore formal strategic partnership besides cooperation in newer areas after high-level talks in Seoul.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-seoul-move-for-newer-ties-strategic-partnership-1756231566>

Bida, Bepza secure nearly USD 1 Bn investment proposals in 6 months

- Bangladesh has received investment proposals worth just over USD 1 Bn from both domestic and foreign companies during December 2024 to May 2025. The proposals were submitted to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-nearly-1b-investment-proposals-5-months-2025-bida-1221271>

Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone secures Beza licence to boost southern industrial growth

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) has granted a pre-qualification licence to the Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone in Bhola district, opening new opportunities for industrial growth in the country's southern region. The zone will initially be developed on 102.46 acres in Bhola Sadar Upazila, with plans to expand to 158 acres in phases, said a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bhola-eco-development-economic-zone-secures-beza-licence-boost-southern-industrial-growth>

Bangladesh-Malaysia chamber eyes semiconductor, halal market partnerships

- Bangladesh cannot afford to remain on the sidelines of the semiconductor ecosystem, which is projected to exceed USD 3 Tn globally by 2030, says BMCCI president Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) is moving to tap into opportunities in the global semiconductor and halal markets through new partnerships signed with Malaysian institutions earlier this month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bmcci-eyes-semiconductor-halal-markets-through-malaysia-partnerships-1221386>

Apparel sub-contractors now to get a pie of export incentives

- The government has decided to extend special cash incentives to RMG exporters who will subcontract factories for ready-made garment (RMG) production, a benefit currently available only to exporters operating their own factories, according to finance ministry officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-sub-contractors-now-get-pie-export-incentives-1221556>

SERVICE | Forbes Asia spotlights Pathao in '100 to Watch'

- Pathao has been named to Forbes Asia's "100 to Watch 2025," a list that spotlights the most promising and dynamic companies shaping the future of the Asia-Pacific region. This recognition comes at a special moment for us, as we prepare to celebrate our 10-year anniversary this October, says the company in a press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/forbes-asia-spotlights-pathao-in-100-to-watch-1756233077>

TRADE | Ban import of oxygen, argon: CCCI

- Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has urged the government to impose a ban on the import of oxygen and argon in order to safeguard the interests of the local sector. The leading trade body, based in Chittagong, has recently requested the commerce ministry to take necessary steps on the issue, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ban-import-of-oxygen-argon-ccci-1756231970>

BANK | Steps to be taken to clear export proceeds by crisis-hit banks: Governor

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur has assured that crisis-ridden banks will be directed to pay exporters their due share from export proceeds, with a plan for a permanent solution to follow.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/crisis-hit-banks-settle-exporters-dues-export-proceeds-assures-bb-governor-1221096>

BANK | Bangladesh Bank net profits up 52% in FY25

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) made a record by bagging net profits of around BDT 230 Bn in FY25 - a 52% increase from the previous fiscal year. The frequent rise in the policy rate and commercial banks' growing dependence on the central bank's liquidity-feeding instruments helped the regulator enjoy an increase of around BDT 80 Bn in net profits in a single financial year, according to central bankers and money market analysts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-bank-net-profits-up-52pc-in-fy25-1756231199>

BANK | Islamic banks' deposit, market share see downtrends

- The country's Islamic banks, despite having considerable rise in investments and assets, experienced a slowdown in deposit growth and a shrinking market share of investments over the months. According to latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, the volume of investment in the country's Islamic banking system grew by 12.52% to reach BDT 5.67 Tn in May 2025 from BDT 5.04 Tn in May 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/islamic-banks-deposit-market-share-see-downtrends-1756231832>

Port tariff hike put off on user protest

- A steep 40% hike in tariffs on goods and vessels at Chittagong seaport stands postponed as a decisive meeting held Monday at the shipping ministry ended sans decision on user objections, sources said. The ministry of shipping few days back received approval from the finance ministry to raise the tariffs on average by 40%, but the shipping agents and port-users stood to the move on grounds that it would ultimately result in price rises at this time of high inflation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/port-tariff-hike-put-off-on-user-protest-1756143547>

BD, China assocs join hands to advance semiconductor industry

- Under a signed MoU, both associations will work together to promote knowledge sharing and advanced technology exchange, facilitate joint research and development (R&D) initiatives, develop skilled human resources through training and certification programmes, encourage cross-border investment and business partnerships, organize joint events, trade delegations and expos.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-china-assocs-join-hands-to-advance-semiconductor-industry-1756146307>

Debt burden on the poorest getting heavier

- The poorest 40% of the population reported a 7% net increase in debt over the previous six months. The debt burden of the poorest section of the population is rising due to high food prices and the overall cost of living, according to a study by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/debt-burden-the-poorest-getting-heavier-3970766>

TEXTILE | BGMEA makes unit price declaration mandatory for UD certificates

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) -- the apparel apex body -- has tagged new requirements mandating factories to provide the unit price of imported raw materials and readymade garments produced for export to get utilization declaration (UD) certificates aiming to ensure transparency and accurate valuation in the industry.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bgmea-makes-unit-price-declaration-mandatory-for-ud-certificates-1756143728>

BANK | Tariffs, weak confidence heighten risks for Islamic banks

- Islamic banks in the country, which are already under strain from multiple challenges, are likely to face further difficulty amid political uncertainty, the fallout of US reciprocal tariffs and new financial reporting standards, Moody's Ratings said in a report released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tariffs-weak-confidence-heighten-risks-islamic-banks-3970751>

NBFI | NBFIs' resilience falls sharply in 4 years

- Only 9 of Bangladesh's 35 non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) remained sound until December 2024, reflecting a sharp fall in their resilience over the past four years. Bangladesh Bank's stress test results show while 18 out of 34 NBFIs, also called finance companies, were in sound condition in 2020, the figure dropped to just 9 out of 35 by December 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbfis-resilience-falls-sharply-in-4-years-1756143868>

FUEL & POWER | Govt intervention sought to resume operation

- A dozen private petrochemical and refinery plants have sought the interim government's intervention to resume operation and produce refined petroleum products to meet the country's growing needs. They were allegedly forced to shut down in July 2020 following "unfair" interference from the then government high-ups. As a result, bank loans of around BDT 20 Bn borrowed against the plants remained stuck for years, and about 5,000 employees became jobless.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-intervention-sought-to-resume-operation-1756143508>

MISCELLANEOUS | Rubber imports rose 33% last fiscal year

- Bangladesh's rubber imports surged by 33% year-on-year in the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), as local industries faced shortages due to supply disruptions from domestic producers. The country imported 4,199 tonnes of rubber worth BDT 1.07 Bn in FY25, compared with 3,165 tonnes a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rubber-imports-rose-33-last-fiscal-year-3970796>

IT | Ismartu Tech to make DrKumo tablets for US export

- Ismartu Technology BD Limited, the local manufacturer of Chinese brands Itel, Tecno, and Infinix, has secured regulatory approval to make tablets under the US-based DrKumo brand exclusively for export to the American market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ismartu-tech-make-drkumo-tablets-us-export-3970771>

BD needs USD 42 bn investment by 2040, says CPD

- Bangladesh will need an additional 18,162 megawatts (MW) of renewable power capacity by 2030 to reach a 20% share of total power capacity, and 35,713 MW by 2040 to achieve a 30% share, according to research by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The study shows that a low plant factor of just 0.25 would require an additional investment of USD 35.2-42.6 Bn, with most of the funding needed between 2030 and 2035 to meet the targets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-needs-42b-investment-by-2040-says-cpd-1756060145>

Extend LDC-graduation timeline by 5-6 yrs

- Leading business chambers and trade associations urged the government to seek a five- to six-year extension of the timeline for Bangladesh's LDC graduation, emphasising that additional time is crucial to cushioning the economy against the shocks to follow the withdrawal of preferential trade benefits and concessional financing.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/extend-ldc-graduation-timeline-by-5-6-yrs-1756059356>

Five reform projects not taken up for execution in 2 months

- The Planning Division will sit with the relevant state agencies today (Monday) to brainstorm as to why implementation of five projects aiming to reform key government agencies could not be begun even nearly two months after getting approval. The projects were taken up under the World Bank's Strengthening Institutions for Transparency and Accountability (SITA) initiative, aiming to help boost revenue, ensure efficiency and transparency in public spendings, and strengthen the statistical system.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/five-reform-projects-not-taken-up-for-execution-in-2-months-1756059415>

Slowing growth, weak investment strain economy: DCCI

- Bangladesh's economy is grappling with multiple challenges, including slowing growth, stubborn inflation, and a sharp fall in private investment, according to the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/slowing-growth-weak-investment-strain-economy-dcci-3970076>

Bangladesh emerging as Chinese firms' investment destination

- Bangladesh seems rapidly emerging as an investment hub for Chinese manufacturers seeking to diversify production bases to tide over high tariffs imposed by the United States on Chinese goods. Such change of fortune is in sight as a number of companies from China have recently signed agreements with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), and officials think others may be up and coming for relation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-emerging-as-chinese-firms-investment-destination-1756059158>

TANNERY | Chinese shoe co to invest USD 10.20 Mn in Bangladesh

- Chinese entity Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited will invest USD 10.20 Mn in the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) to establish a modern footwear manufacturing facility, reports UNB. In this connection, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the Chinese entity Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Company Limited at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka on Sunday, paving the way for the factory to start operations soon, according to a press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/chinese-shoe-co-to-invest-1020m-in-bangladesh-1756062804>

BANK | Cenbank raises digital bank capital requirement to BDT 3 Bn

- Bangladesh Bank has raised the minimum paid-up capital requirement for setting up a digital bank to BDT 3 Bn, more than double the earlier threshold of BDT 1.25 Bn. Earlier, as per the digital bank guideline formulated in June 2023, the capital requirement was set at BDT 1.25 Bn. By comparison, a conventional bank needs BDT 5 Bn in paid-up capital to secure a license.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-raises-digital-bank-capital-requirement-tk300cr-1219361>

FUEL & POWER | BPDB seeks 'clear directive' from Power Division

- Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has sought a "clear directive" from the Power Division to decide on the fate of 34 solar power plants, officials said. The BPDB in a recent letter sought the directive after its board of directors earlier this month decided to seek government approval to scrap the Letters of Intent (LoIs) issued in favour of the solar power plants under the Special Provisions Act, they said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bpdb-seeks-clear-directive-from-power-division-1756059751>

FUEL & POWER | BRAC EPL Investments partners with Paramount Solar to boost renewable energy expansion

- BRAC EPL Investments Ltd (BEIL) has entered into a strategic partnership with Paramount Solar Limited (PSL) recently, with BEIL serving as the corporate adviser to support the solar company's expansion in Bangladesh's renewable energy sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brac-epl-investments-partners-paramount-solar-boost-renewable-energy-expansion-3969706>

Govt launches centralised digital platform for project approvals

- The Planning Division under the Ministry of Planning has launched a centralised digital platform to streamline the public investment cycle, from preparing Development Project Proposals (DPPs) to appraisal and final approval.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-launches-centralised-digital-platform-for-project-approvals-1755970416>

FDI rose 20% in FY25

- Bangladesh saw a rebound in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, with net inflows reaching USD 1.71 Bn. The figure marks an increase of nearly 20% compared with the previous year, following a three-year low in FY24 amid a heated political climate centred on the national elections and subdued investor confidence, according to central bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fdi-rose-20-fy25-3968176>

Govt keen to finalise free trade zone decision by December

- The government is showing interest in setting up the country's first free trade zone (FTZ) in the southern coastal region, aiming to attract more foreign investment and create jobs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-keen-finalise-free-trade-zone-decision-dec-3968171>

US leads in Bangladeshi credit card spending abroad

- Bangladeshi nationals spent the most on credit cards in the United States, debit cards in the United Kingdom, and prepaid cards in Saudi Arabia in June this year, according to a recent report by Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-leads-bangladeshi-credit-card-spending-abroad-3968166>

Mongla Port introduces LCL cargo handling

- With this facility, traders can now ship smaller consignments using shared containers, eliminating the need to bear the full cost of an entire container. Mongla Port authority has introduced the long-awaited Less-than-Container Load (LCL) cargo handling system, opening new opportunities for both small and large-scale importers and exporters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/mongla-port-introduces-lcl-cargo-handling-1218521>

Development works slow as only 75 projects cleared last fiscal

- Development works suffered badly as only 75 new projects involving BDT 984.98 Bn were endorsed in the past fiscal year--the lowest in two decades in terms of both their number and expenditure. Official statistics show the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) gave its seal of approval to these few development projects in the fiscal year 2024-25, evidently as the entire time reeled from political upheavals and regime change.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/development-works-slow-as-only-75-projects-cleared-last-fiscal-1755885777?date=23-08-2025>

BDT appreciates after years of depreciation

- Bangladesh currency taka gained value by 0.39% to 122.3 in July against per US dollar, marking its strongest exchange clout that has implications particularly for trade and remittance. Economists and central bankers attribute the appreciation to a combination of weaker greenback globally, robust remittance inflows and sluggish private-sector- credit growth that curbed import demand.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bdt-appreciates-after-years-of-depreciation-1755885953>

ADB outpaces WB, provides USD 2.52 Bn in FY'25

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has emerged as the top development partner for Bangladesh as it disbursed highest USD 2.52 billion in foreign assistance in the last fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, officials said on Friday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adb-outpaces-wb-provides-252b-in-fy25-1755886110?date=23-08-2025>

Process of BDT 400 Bn stolen asset recovery starts

- The government has launched a coordinated drive to recover assets worth nearly BDT 400 Bn amassed abroad with siphoned-off money. Prime Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said teams comprising Bangladesh Bank, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are working together on the recovery process.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/process-of-tk-400b-stolen-asset-recovery-starts-1755799127>

ENGINEERING | Pran-RFL invests BDT 2 Bn as locally made lifts gain traction

- Although Bangladesh's lift market is still largely import-dependent, the demand for locally produced lifts has been steadily growing. To meet this rising demand, Property Lifts — a subsidiary of Pran-RFL Group — has invested nearly BDT 2 Bn in producing world-class lifts at affordable prices. Besides Property Lifts, Walton is currently the only other company producing lifts in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pran-rfl-invests-tk200cr-locally-made-lifts-gain-traction-1218836>

BANK | Banks' overseas branches see profit plunge amid import slowdown

- The aggregate net profit of Bangladeshi banks' overseas branches plummeted by nearly 37% in 2024 compared to the previous year, a direct consequence of a significant slowdown in imports. According to the Bangladesh Bank's Financial Stability Report 2024, the combined net profit of these overseas branches fell to USD 5.96 Mn in 2024, a 36.56% decrease from the USD 9.40 Mn achieved in 2023. This sharp decline in profitability also saw the aggregate return on assets (ROA) drop from 1.74% to 1.15%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-overseas-branches-see-profit-plunge-amid-import-slowdown-1217621>

JUTE | Jute spinners demand raw jute export ban, mandatory jute packaging

- The Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJSA) Saturday has called for a ban on raw jute exports and full enforcement of the mandatory jute packaging law. The association has raised this demand as export of jute and jute goods has been steadily declining in the international market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/jute-spinners-demand-raw-jute-export-ban-mandatory-jute-packaging-1755970765>

RMG | RMG makers seek increase in incentive rates

- Country's apparel makers have sought increase in the rates of incentive to help the largest export-earning sector sustain its growth pace. They have demanded that the government raises the rate of special incentive to 1.0% from the existing level of 0.30% and increase the incentive to 4% for small and medium units from the present rate of 3.0%. Besides, the apparel makers also want a 2.0% cash support as alternative to the duty drawback facilities against the existing rate of 1.5%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-makers-seek-increase-in-incentive-rates-1755886187?date=23-08-2025>

TEXTILE | Large manufacturing contracts marginally in June

- Bangladesh's large manufacturing sector contracted 3.58% year on year in June after recording a healthy growth in May 2025, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). This happens to be a second spell of contraction in the past fiscal year after August fall by 1.13% when countrywide political movement against the Hasina government crippled economic activities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/large-manufacturing-contracts-marginally-in-june-1755799370>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Consolidated licensing, cap on foreign ownership likely

- A new-look telecommunications network and licensing policy is in the making with a sweeping reform package aimed at simplifying regulation, reducing inefficiencies and enabling the sector to adapt to modern technological and market realities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/consolidated-licensing-cap-on-foreign-ownership-likely-1755799204>

Important News: Stocks

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank posts profit despite regulatory clampdown, surging NPLs

- Islami Bank reported a profit of BDT 1.09 Bn for 2024 even after a 68% year-on-year increase in provision in the year for non-performing loans (NPLs) under a strict regulatory measure by the central bank. The lender had to reveal its actual status regarding the amount of loans that had turned sour to follow the newly-enforced stringent NPL policy. Hence, its NPLs increased to BDT 328.17 Bn in December last year from only BDT 71.24 Bn six months ago. The default loans again surged to BDT 476.18 Bn by March this year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/islami-bank-posts-profit-despite-regulatory-clampdown-surging-npls-1756315651>

BEXIMCO | Regulator to probe use of BEXIMCO bond proceeds

- The securities regulator has formed probe committees to inquire into the utilisation of funds raised by BEXIMCO through bonds in 2021 and 2024. The company raised BDT 30 Bn in 2021, issuing Beximco Green Sukuk bonds. The bond proceeds were meant for solar projects -- Teesta Solar and Korotoa Solar -- to produce electricity from renewable energy and transmit it to the national grid. In 2024, the conglomerate collected funds worth BDT 15 Bn through IFIC Guaranteed Sreepur Township Zero Coupon Bond to invest in real estate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-to-probe-use-of-beximco-bond-proceeds-1756315677>

KBPPWBIL | Khan Brothers turns to local sales amid ongoing export suspension

- Khan Brothers PP Woven Bags Industries, a publicly listed company, has decided to begin direct sales of its products in the local market, in addition to its current sub-contract work. According to a stock exchange disclosure published yesterday, the company's export operations have been on hold since 2022, with all revenue generated solely from sub-contracting. The company's shares closed at BDT 117.80 each on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/khan-brothers-turns-local-sales-amid-ongoing-export-suspension-1221966>

DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank to buy BDT 10.16 Bn building for new head office

- Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC (DBBL) is set to purchase a 21-storey commercial building in Motijheel for BDT 10.16 Bn to establish its permanent head office, marking one of the largest real estate acquisitions by a private commercial bank in recent years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dutch-bangla-bank-buy-tk1016cr-building-new-head-office-1221611>

ICB | ICB seeks 5-year extension for BDT 9 Bn special fund

- Considering the current capital market situation, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has urged the government to extend the BDT 9 Bn special fund by another five years, until 2032. Urging the extension, ICB – the state-owned institution mandated to develop the capital market and manage the special fund – has written to the finance ministry, according to officials involved with the fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-5-year-extension-tk900cr-special-fund-1221541>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank declares no dividend; profit drops 83% in 2024

- The Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd has decided not to pay any dividend to its shareholders for the year 2024 at a board meeting held yesterday (26 August). According to the disclosure published on its website, the bank reported a consolidated net profit of BDT 1.08 Bn in 2024, which was 83% lower than the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-bank-declares-no-dividend-profit-drops-83-2024-1221546>

PHOENIXFIN | Phoenix Finance to sell half of Motijheel property amid deepening losses

- Phoenix Finance and Investments Ltd has decided to sell 50% ownership of its commercial property, Phoenix Bhaban, located at Dilkusha in Dhaka's Motijheel, as part of efforts to tackle its prolonged financial crisis. By the end of 2024, its loss per share stood at BDT 48.73.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/phoenix-finance-sell-half-motijheel-property-amid-deepening-losses-1220676>

EXCHANGE | Yield rates on two BGTBs fall further

- The yields on two types of long-term treasury bonds fell further on Tuesday as banks opted to invest their excess liquidity in the risk-free instruments. The cut-off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the 15-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) declined to 10.28% on the day from the previous rate of 10.48% while that of 20-Year BGTBs decreased to 10.30% from 10.55%, according to the auction results.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yield-rates-on-two-bgtbs-fall-further-1756231887>

JMISMDL | JMI launches Apollo Clinic in Dhaka

- Apollo Clinic, a subsidiary of India's international hospital chain Apollo, is now in Dhaka to offer world-class medical services. The company is operated in Bangladesh by the JMI Specialized Hospital Limited, a subsidiary of JMI Group, as a licensee. Apollo Clinic's activities were officially inaugurated at a hotel in the capital on Saturday.
<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jmi-launches-apollo-clinic-in-dhaka-1756146443>

SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank's former chairman offloads major stake

- Akkas Uddin Mollah, former chairman and one of the sponsor directors of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, has sold a significant portion of his stake in the bank, transferring the shares to a family-owned company. Today, Mollah declared his plan to sell 21 Mn shares out of his 22.3 Mn holdings at the prevailing market price through the block market of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) within 30 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shahjalal-islami-banks-former-chairman-offloads-major-stake-1220466>

EXCHANGE | BSEC flags two brokerages for net worth shortfall, asks DSE to take action

- The stock market regulator in a recent investigation found two new-generation brokerage firms -- Monarch Holdings and Columbia Shares and Securities -- are suffering from huge net worth shortfall. Currently, trading at Monarch Holdings is suspended while Columbia Securities has been running with capital shortfall.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-flags-two-brokerages-for-net-worth-shortfall-asks-dse-to-take-action-1756146062>

RAHIMAFood | Rahima Food suspends production amid supply shortages and market challenges

- Rahima Food Corporation Limited has temporarily halted production at its coconut oil and cashew nut processing plants, citing weak market penetration and raw material shortages. The announcement comes after Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) sought clarification from the company regarding its operations, following unusual movements in its share price.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rahima-food-suspends-production-amid-supply-shortages-and-market-challenges-1219626>

EXCHANGE | BSEC rejects Magura Multiplex's proposal to issue new shares

- The stock market regulator has rejected a proposal by Magura Multiplex to issue shares worth 3.96 Mn to three of its sponsors to raise paid-up capital as per regulatory requirement. According to a stock exchange filing on Sunday, the company submitted the proposal to Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on July 21 to raise paid-up capital from BDT 296 Mn to minimum required BDT 300 Mn by issuing shares to three sponsors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-rejects-magura-multiplexs-proposal-to-issue-new-shares-1756062701>

EXCHANGE | Margin rules not finalised yet, says BSEC

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) clarified that the draft of Margin Rules will only be finalised after receiving public opinion. The clarification comes amid criticism from market operators who alleged the rules had already been finalised. BSEC, however, said that the draft was approved considering the safety of all types of investors. "The issues of good governance and proper management of margin financing have been considered while formulating the draft rules to reduce the existing risks in debt management," the regulator said in a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/margin-rules-not-finalised-yet-says-bsec-1756062776>

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