DAILY INVESTMENT NEWS

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PBIL Prime Bank Investment PLC. (A Prime Bank Company)

TOP NEWS

Brokers thank BSEC over eased restriction on frozen BOs

The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) thanked the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for easing trading restrictions on some beneficiary owner (BO) accounts that have been frozen for more than two years, according to a DBA press release reported by The Business Standard. The BSEC decision was taken on 3 November, and about 617 accounts had been frozen, roughly half by the BSEC over alleged share manipulation and the rest under court or Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit directives. DBA President Saiful Islam said the DBA had applied on 20 July for reactivation, provided no legal or regulatory restrictions applied. The DBA expects many long-locked shares to become tradable, lifting liquidity, trading volume and investor confidence, and allowing margin loan providers, including stockbrokers and merchant banks, to overcome long-standing financial difficulties. The article does not say how many accounts were reactivated, and it relies on the DBA statement rather than a BSEC statement.

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BB sells another $100m to stabilise forex market

Bangladesh Bank sold another US$100 million from its reserves in an auction on 4 November to stabilise the currency market amid rising import costs, particularly for fuel, according to The Daily Star, with banks required to bid for at least US$500,000 each. It followed a US$122 million auction the previous week, and a US$100 million auction called last Tuesday was cancelled at the last moment. Reserves have fallen from US$37.41 billion on 1 September to US$36.43 billion on 3 November. The dollar crossed Tk124 in the interbank market this week, selling at Tk124.35 on each of the last two days, up from Tk123 at the start of October, after sitting between Tk121 and Tk122.30 for a year and a half after the 2024 political change. It has climbed since March 2026. An anonymous central bank official expects conditions to improve after falls in oil and dollar prices on 4 November, citing hopes of easing global conflict after the US midterm elections.

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Banks' lending income turns negative for first time in 6 years

Combined net interest income of 27 listed banks turned negative at Tk5,624 crore in January-September 2026 from a positive Tk3,016 crore a year earlier, the first negative reading in at least six years, according to The Daily Star. It fell at 20 of the 27 banks, and banks with negative interest income rose to 10 from six. Net investment income rose 21% to Tk32,622 crore, driven largely by government bonds, and provisions fell almost a third to Tk6,900 crore from Tk10,000 crore. The 20 profitable banks earned Tk9,600 crore combined, while seven lost more than Tk13,000 crore, with Islami Bank, National Bank, AB Bank, IFIC Bank and Rupali Bank the biggest losers. BRAC Bank's profit rose 38% to Tk2,120 crore. Mashrur Arefin of City Bank said falling provisions may reflect write-offs and asked the central bank to check for window dressing, while Prime Bank CEO Faisal Rahman said they reflect better asset quality and higher recoveries.

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Money changers can now open custodial forex accounts

Bangladesh Bank has allowed licensed money changers to open foreign currency custodial accounts to handle foreign cash more safely and cut transport risks, according to a circular issued on 4 November and reported by The Daily Star. The accounts are for storing, depositing and withdrawing foreign currency notes only and pay no interest. Deposits are not capped by the usual limits if the volume and nature of the business are documented. Money changers must keep valid cash-in-transit (CIT) insurance, and amounts above limits set by authorised dealer (AD) banks must move through licensed CIT providers or be escorted by security guards. AD banks are advised to provide secure counters and temporary vaults for end-of-day deposits. Withdrawals are allowed only by cheque or slip through authorised representatives and up to the balance, with no overdrafts, fund transfers, remittances or third-party transactions, and all transactions must be settled in notes. The central bank expects safer, more efficient handling and stronger compliance.

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Textile firms struggle to protect margins as energy, labour costs bite in FY26

Of 58 listed textile companies, 37 had disclosed FY26 results, with 12 reporting profit growth, 13 lower earnings and 12 losses, according to DSE data reported by The Business Standard. Thirteen cut cash dividends, seven declared none, nine held payouts and seven raised them. Square Textile's profit fell 38% to Tk88.70 crore, Envoy Textile's fell 1.42% to Tk138 crore with the cash dividend raised to 32.5%, and Matin Spinning's rose 35% to Tk62 crore with a 45% cash and 10% stock dividend. Sharp Industries swung to a Tk72.50 crore loss and Esquire Knit to a Tk36 crore loss. The report cites unreliable gas and electricity, costly diesel generators, higher imported cotton and yarn prices, high borrowing costs, delayed letters of credit and weak Western demand. The sector's market capitalisation is Tk14,421 crore, or 4.35% of DSE value, and textile stocks led recent turnover with gains of about 2% on 4 November.

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Stocks rally, dollar dips after Democrats' 'blue sweep' victory

Global stocks recovered from overnight lows and the dollar dipped on 4 November after Democrats won both the US Senate and House in the midterm elections, according to a Reuters report carried by The Business Standard. The MSCI All-World index rose 0.3%, the STOXX 600 gained 1.4% to a two-month high and US stock futures reversed to rise about 1% after falling as much as 2%. The US 10-year Treasury yield fell 3 basis points to 4.92%, and Brent was down 0.4% at US$103.17 at the time of the report.

The euro rose 0.5% to US$1.125 and the dollar fell 0.4% against the yen to 158.12. Investors worry that a Democratic Congress will scrutinise the AI sector, while defence stocks fell, with BAE Systems down nearly 4%. Deborah Cunningham of Federated Hermes said a divided government typically blocks new legislation, which markets tend to view favourably, and bonds were seen as the clear winner.

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Oil slumps after midterm election rebuke to Trump raises bets on Iran war exit

Oil prices fell more than 8% on 4 November to their lowest settlement in over two months, with Brent settling down US$8.98, or 8.7%, at US$94.62 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate down US$7.97 to US$88.12, according to a Reuters report carried by The Business Standard. Investors bet that the Republican loss of Congress could hasten an end to the US-Israeli war with Iran, and Trump told the Financial Times on 3 November that the US had no immediate plans to strike Iran. Two sources close to Gulf governments said a weakened Trump has more incentive to seek a deal. A senior Iranian official said the two sides remain far from one, and Qatar stepped up mediation. Gulf crude and product exports averaged 17.1 million barrels per day in October, down from 18.9 million in September but about three-quarters of pre-war levels, and the UAE is reportedly considering a third pipeline bypassing Hormuz. US crude inventories fell 865,000 barrels.

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Midterm outcome unlikely to reshape US-Bangladesh trade ties: Analysts

Analysts told The Business Standard that the Republican setback in the US midterms is unlikely to change US-Bangladesh trade ties immediately, though it may limit Trump's unilateral policymaking. Former BGMEA president Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez said existing reciprocal tariffs, imposed under presidential authority, are unlikely to be reversed soon, and that easing Iran tensions could lower oil and gas prices, benefiting Bangladesh. Political economist Parvez Karim Abbasi said Democratic control of both chambers would make legislation harder and committees could scrutinise trade agreements, and that Bangladeshi apparel exports could face closer labour and environmental scrutiny, raising compliance costs, while saying that any revision of tariff deals is uncertain. Former WTO cell director general Mohammad Hafizur Rahman said US-funded programmes, including USDA activities, could resume, and former ambassador M Humayun Kabir said gridlock could add uncertainty for Asian economies, but saw no sign that Congress would review existing agreements.

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Nahee Aluminum MD to gift 40 lakh shares worth Tk15.92cr to sons

Monira Noman, managing director of Nahee Aluminum Composite Panel, plans to gift 40 lakh shares worth Tk15.92 crore at the current market price to her two sons, Hasin Noman Mahee and Fahim Noman Nahee, 20 lakh each, according to stock exchange disclosures reported by The Business Standard. The transfer will take place outside the exchange's trading system within 30 working days, and both sons are general shareholders. She held 85.45 lakh shares, a 12.50% stake, in the October shareholding report. The shares closed at Tk39.80, down 2.45%, which matches the Tk15.92 crore valuation. Director Abu Neaim Howlader also plans to gift 12 lakh shares worth Tk4.77 crore to his wife, Maria Islam, outside the trading system within 30 working days from 3 November, from a holding of 49.84 lakh shares, or 7.29%. The article does not state the reasons for either gift.

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