TOP NEWS

Beacon Pharma to invest Tk250cr in second oncology facility

Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC plans to invest Tk250 crore in a second oncology production facility, with its board approving the plan on 15 October, according to a price-sensitive disclosure reported by The Business Standard. The company says the project will expand its manufacturing footprint, support future revenue growth and strengthen research capabilities to meet international regulatory standards. Once complete, annual output will rise by 37.97 crore tablets, 21.10 crore capsules, 2.53 crore blisters and 2 crore vials of injectables, which Beacon expects to have a substantial positive effect on long-term revenue. Alongside the announcement, the company released audited results for the year ended 30 June 2026, with sales up 31% year-on-year and earnings per share (EPS) up 105% to Tk8.41 from Tk4.10. The board recommended an 11% cash dividend with a record date of 10 November, and shareholders will vote at the annual general meeting (AGM), to be held digitally on 13 December.

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Submarine Cables posts 37.47% surge in profit to Tk283cr

Bangladesh Submarine Cables Limited reported a 37.47% year-on-year rise in net profit to Tk283 crore for FY2025-26, and its board recommended a 47.50% cash dividend, according to The Business Standard. Total revenue grew 25% to Tk496 crore from Tk396 crore, which the company attributed to higher demand for International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) rent, IP transit and co-location services, helped by management initiatives and favourable government policies. Diluted EPS rose to Tk13.61 from Tk9.93, driven mainly by operational growth along with higher interest and other income, and the company said no significant extraordinary transactions were recorded. The record date for dividend eligibility is 17 November, and the AGM will be held virtually on 20 December. Profit growing faster than revenue points to operating leverage in the state-owned operator's core connectivity business.

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Uttara Bank profit inches up in Q3

Uttara Bank PLC recorded a slight gain in net profit for July-September 2026, according to a Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) disclosure reported by The Business Standard, which attributed it to steady performance across core operations. Consolidated net profit after tax was Tk159.88 crore against Tk158.46 crore a year earlier, with EPS of Tk1.32 against Tk1.31; on a standalone basis, profit was Tk161.32 crore against Tk157.99 crore, with EPS of Tk1.33. For January-September, consolidated net profit rose 28% to Tk430.59 crore from Tk335.26 crore and EPS reached Tk3.55 against Tk2.76. Consolidated net operating cash flow per share surged to Tk17.02 from Tk0.44 a year earlier, and net asset value (NAV) per share rose to Tk28.99 from Tk23.73. The share price was unchanged at Tk20.90 on the DSE, about 0.7 times NAV per share. The flat quarter after strong nine-month growth suggests earnings momentum is levelling off.

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Shahjalal Islami Bank's Q3 earnings rise 21%

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC raised its consolidated EPS by 21% year-on-year to Tk1.23 from Tk1.02 in July-September 2026, according to a DSE disclosure reported by The Business Standard. The bank attributed the gain to higher net investment income and greater revenue from commission, exchange and brokerage services. For January-September, consolidated EPS reached Tk4.00 against Tk3.50, which the bank credited to improved yields on net investments, stronger income from capital market investments and higher fee-based revenue. Consolidated net operating cash flow per share climbed to Tk36.61 from Tk22.97 on higher cash collections from investment income and a steady inflow of customer deposits, and NAV per share rose to Tk25.45 at 30 September from Tk23.07 at the end of 2025. Despite the stronger results, the share price fell 0.57% to Tk17.30 on the DSE, about 0.7 times NAV per share.

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Power and raw material shortages stall Emerald Oil's production

Emerald Oil Industries PLC has again missed its production restart deadline, according to a DSE disclosure reported by The Business Standard. The company had expected to resume operations by 30 September 2026 but cites two obstacles: the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has not yet provided the electricity connection, despite the company installing solar panels worth about Tk80 lakh and depositing about Tk50 lakh toward connection costs, and rice bran, its main raw material, becomes available only from November because of seasonality. No revised restart date has been announced. The factory has been closed since 1 January 2024 because of inadequate gas supply, and the board authorised reopening on 8 July 2026, with about Tk10 crore planned for a new boiler, transformer, substation and machinery repairs. The company has not published financial statements since January 2023, leaving investors without a clear view of its liabilities or ability to fund a restart. Its shares trade in the DSE's Z category and closed at Tk27.90.

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IMF calls for tight monetary policy, broader reforms

The IMF has told Bangladesh to keep monetary conditions tight and carry out broader reforms, according to The Daily Star. IMF Deputy Director for Asia and the Pacific Sonali Jain Chandra said at a Bangkok briefing that inflation, the financial sector and fiscal weakness remain challenges, and that tight monetary policy cannot work alone. The IMF forecasts inflation of 10.9% in FY2026-27, the highest in nearly two decades, against 8.7% in June, while Bangladesh Bank kept its policy rate at 9.5% on 30 September after a 0.5 percentage point cut on 2 August. The Fund described the financial sector as very weak and said revenue has fallen to

around 7% of GDP, one of the world's lowest. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, who met IMF Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke, said the government agrees with most of the observations and that talks on a new programme will continue over the coming months. Authorities requested the programme in May after withdrawing from the earlier US$4.7 billion arrangement.

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Oil's long view darkens as Iran war refuses to end

Oil markets have stopped treating the Iran war as a short shock and now expect elevated prices through 2028, according to a Reuters report republished by The Daily Star. Brent contracts for December 2027 delivery have risen more than 13% since early September to US$86 a barrel, a record for that contract, while December 2026 contracts gained about 12%. The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects supply rising from 100.7 million barrels per day this year to 108.3 million in 2027 as Middle East exports recover against demand of 104.4 million, a surplus that would normally weigh on prices. The standoff centres on the Strait of Hormuz, where flows have recovered near pre-war levels but Iran has intensified attacks on vessels, and logistics, insurance and military protection now account for nearly a third of the cost of moving a barrel out of the region, up from 3%. European diesel hit a record US$1,480 a tonne in mid-September. Higher oil prices are likely to keep Bangladesh's fuel import bill elevated.

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Solar projects offer Tk 2,777cr revenue potential in 20 years

A study presented on 15 October at a citizen dialogue in Dhaka estimates that rooftop and floating solar projects at public universities, colleges and two local government areas could generate Tk2,777 crore in electricity sales over 20 years, according to The Daily Star. The projects would total 132.61 megawatt-peak (MWp), with 52.50 MWp at 31 public universities, 51.12 MWp at 150 colleges, 24.63 MWp in Rajshahi City Corporation and 4.36 MWp in Shailkupa Municipality, require an estimated Tk731 crore and produce 370.3 crore units. The study puts generation cost at Tk4.10 a unit against an assumed selling price of Tk7.50, and under the proposed model private investors would finance, install and operate the systems and recover costs through sales. Power Division Secretary Mirana Mahrukh said the cabinet approved a renewable energy strategy in July and that 8,336 new investors have entered the sector in four months. Participants called for investor safeguards and predictable tariffs.

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Pressure on forex rises as external debt service surges

Growing foreign-loan repayments are straining Bangladesh's foreign exchange buffers, according to provisional Economic Relations Division (ERD) data reported by The Financial Express. In FY2025-26 the government paid US$1.56 billion in interest on external loans, up more than 218% from about US$491 million in FY2021-22, while principal repayments on medium- and long-term loans reached US$2.98 billion, up roughly 95% from about US$1.53 billion, bringing combined debt service to about US$4.53 billion. The country received US$7.41 billion in new foreign loans in the year, so net external flows remain positive after servicing. An ERD official noted that concessional loans carry favourable terms but still create long-term obligations, and an additional secretary warned that project delays or weak returns could make repayment harder. Analysts expect pressure to rise as Bangladesh graduates from least developed country status, and Dr Masrur Reaz of Policy Exchange Bangladesh urged better project selection, stronger revenue collection and higher export earnings.

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