TOP NEWS

Swisscontact to help RMG firms raise capital market financing

Swisscontact will provide advisory and technical support to help ready-made garment companies tap the capital market, said Farzana Amin, team leader of the organization's Progress project, at a workshop titled "Expanding RMG's Financing Horizons: Opportunities in the Capital Market" held at the DSE Training Academy in Dhaka on Wednesday. She said RMG companies need to consider capital market-based financing alongside bank loans, with Swisscontact offering end-to-end support to firms interested in accessing the market and aiming to develop several RMG companies as role models over the coming year, drawing on two decades of experience in compliance, skills development and green transition in the RMG and textile sectors. DSE Managing Director Nuzrat Anwar said the capital market should serve as a major source of long-term financing rather than merely an investment platform, calling for policy reviews on IPO proceeds and refinancing opportunities. BKMEA Deputy Secretary Md Harunur Rashid said industrial companies remain heavily dependent on bank financing, which constrains their expansion, while BMBA President Iftekhar Alam, CEO of LankaBangla Investments, reviewed new listing regulations, eligibility requirements, valuation procedures and lock-in requirements.

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Brokers seek rules for share buyback, merger

The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has asked the government to include provisions allowing listed companies to buy back their own shares and to carry out mergers and acquisitions in the proposed third amendment to the Companies Act, 1994. In a letter signed by DBA President Saiful Islam and addressed to Commerce Secretary Md Ataur Rahman Khan, with a copy to BSEC Chairman Masud Khan, the association said permitting share buybacks would make the capital market more dynamic and more attractive to investors, and noted that listed companies currently face complex and lengthy legal procedures when undertaking mergers and acquisitions. The DBA also urged that the BSEC be empowered to frame and enforce comprehensive regulatory frameworks governing buybacks, mergers and acquisitions to ensure transparency, strengthen corporate governance and enable faster decision-making.

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BSEC tightens stock investment curbs on market insiders, opens more options

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has issued a directive widening the investment options available to capital market insiders while keeping its prohibition on direct stock ownership intact. Directors, officers and employees of the stock exchanges, Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL), Central Counterparty Bangladesh Ltd (CCBL), Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market (BICM), Bangladesh Academy for Securities Markets (BASM) and the BSEC itself, previously confined to open-ended mutual funds, may now also invest in non-convertible bonds, government securities, exchange-traded funds and Real Estate Investment Trust funds, although ETFs and REITs are yet to be introduced in Bangladesh's capital market. Employees and their dependents, including sons, daughters, fathers and mothers, may open beneficiary owner accounts for the approved instruments only. BSEC Executive Director and Spokesperson Md Abul Kalam said the restriction applies to BSEC officers and employees as well and that the directive came into effect last week, adding that the curbs are designed to prevent conflicts of interest and the misuse of market-sensitive information. The commission will monitor investment accounts and act against prohibited transactions under securities rules.

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Third LNG terminal deal: Chinese firm tipped despite cheaper offers

Bangladesh is set to award its third floating LNG terminal to state-owned China National Energy Engineering & Construction Co (CNEE) at $342,000 a day for 15 years, about $1.87 billion in nominal terms, despite markedly cheaper offers on the table. The rate, comprising $246,000 in fixed charges, $59,000 in operational costs and $37,000 in port fees, is 35–37% above the existing Excelerate ($254,000) and Summit ($249,000) terminals, 43% above RPGCL's benchmark of just under $240,000, and 80% higher than Aramco Trading Singapore's $190,000 offer made during the interim government. Rival bids included CMC at $225,000, SOCAR at $288,000 and OQ Trading at $296,000, while China Merchants Industry's 11 August proposal, a two-vessel configuration with about 280,000 cubic metres of storage and 700 mmcfd of send-out capacity, would cost roughly $811 million to purchase or $798 million to lease over 15 years, more than $1 billion less than CNEE. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved CNEE in principle on 28 July, 38 days after its 19 June submission, which itself followed a 12 May unsolicited proposal from New York-based NS Energy Navigation whose wording, commercial alternatives and implementation schedules were substantially identical; CNEE's project map was even labelled "Proposed NS Energy FSRU." Energy Division officials cited CNEE's 18-month delivery timeline, targeting commissioning by April 2028, as the primary reason for the selection.

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Govt offices urged to expand renewable energy use

Science, Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam has urged government institutions to use unused rooftops and other suitable spaces for solar power generation in order to reduce costs and ease pressure on the national grid. He was speaking at the inauguration of a 1MW rooftop solar power plant at Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Limited (BCSL) in Khulna on Thursday. The Tk5,15,23,715 project is expected to save about Tk1.5 million a month in electricity bills against the company's 900-kilowatt requirement, with surplus power supplied to the national grid at Tk10.50 per unit and the investment recovered within four years. The government is offering a six-month tax exemption on imported solar equipment alongside incentives for surplus electricity fed into the grid. Posts and Telecommunications Division Secretary and BCSL Chairman Bilquis

Jahan Rimi, BCSL Managing Director Md Shahidul Islam, Khulna City Corporation Administrator Nazrul Islam Manju, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Md Abdullah Harun and Additional Deputy Commissioner Bitaan Kumar Mondal attended the program.

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Govt signs investment promotion deal with Hong Kong

Bangladesh and Hong Kong have signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) at the opening session of the 11th Belt and Road Summit 2026 in Hong Kong, with Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir signing for Bangladesh and Algernon Yau, secretary for commerce and economic development, signing for Hong Kong. Hong Kong is currently the seventh-largest source of investment in Bangladesh, having provided about $750 million in foreign direct investment over the past five years, including $122 million in 2025. The commerce ministry said the agreement will further strengthen the protection of mutual investments and the capital of investors from both sides, create a more institutionalized investment environment and open new avenues for economic cooperation, with inflows expected to rise particularly in the ready-made garment and textile industries.

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Bangladesh, Australia discuss cooperation in trade, investment, energy

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir discussed cooperation in trade, investment, energy, labor mobility and regional and global issues at a bilateral meeting. Ryle reaffirmed that Australia will continue to support Bangladesh on vocational training and health issues, and said Australia will always be with Bangladesh in resolving the Rohingya crisis. Kobir sought expanded collaboration between Australian Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions and Bangladesh's Technical Training Centers, with particular focus on caregiver training programs, and praised Australia's humanitarian assistance on the Rohingya crisis while expressing interest in sustained cooperation towards a lasting solution to the protracted crisis. Both sides noted their close cooperation at the United Nations and other international forums.

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Trouser Line keen to buy 23.50 lakh Pubali Bank shares worth Tk8.86cr

Garment manufacturer Trouser Line Limited has announced its intention to buy 23.50 lakh shares of Pubali Bank through the Dhaka Stock Exchange public market, worth about Tk8.86 crore at the disclosure-day market price of Tk37.70 a share. Rana Laila Hafiz, managing director of Trouser Line, established in 2009 and exporting shirts, jackets and pants, is also a director of Pubali Bank, holding 2.60 crore shares or a 2% stake, the minimum shareholding required to retain a directorship in a listed company, according to the bank's 2025 annual report. Pubali Bank's net profit rose steadily from Tk435 crore in 2021 to Tk1,090 crore in 2025, and reached Tk684.86 crore in the first half of 2026 against Tk577.83 crore a year earlier. In July 2026, the bank approved the purchase of 95.10 decimals of land along with a 26-storey under-construction building, Swiss Tower, at Tejgaon link road for Tk800 crore excluding VAT, subject to regulatory approval.

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