

TOP NEWS

IMF conditions unacceptable, we will raise funds from our own market: Finance minister

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said at the opening of World Investor Week 2026 that the government has cancelled its IMF programme over unacceptable conditions and will instead raise financing from Bangladesh's own capital market and international financial centres like New York and Hong Kong, through instruments such as dollar, panda and samurai bonds. He said the country needs \$50 billion a year to meet its target of a \$1 trillion economy by 2034, and that the capital market lacks depth because of weak policy coordination among Bangladesh Bank, NBR, insurers and exchanges; he also said the government should not fund commercial enterprises such as airlines with taxpayer money.

[Read the full story ›](#)**IPO drought to end as BSEC vows faster approvals; DSE chairman says investor confidence biggest challenge**

At the same World Investor Week opening, BSEC Chairman Masud Khan said IPO approval time will be cut to three months from nearly 18, with several quality companies, including a foreign-owned firm, expected to apply soon, alongside a new direct-listing option for large firms; the BSEC has approved nearly Tk3,000 crore in bonds since taking office and is integrating brokers' back-office systems for real-time surveillance. DSE Chairman Mominul Islam said restoring investor confidence remains the market's biggest challenge regardless of reforms, warning that misleading social-media groups are inducing small investors into losses, and said DSE plans AI-based surveillance to catch fraud circulating online.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Directors of NCC, Dhaka, Pubali Bank announce major share buy-sell plans**

NCC Bank sponsor MA Quasem plans to sell 92,000 of his 49.92 lakh shares by 29 October, following an earlier 26.65 lakh-share sale, while Dhaka Bank Chairman Abdul Hai Sarker plans to buy 1 lakh shares after acquiring 9 lakh earlier, and Pubali Bank director entity Trouser Line Limited plans to buy 30 lakh shares after acquisitions of 40 lakh and 23.50 lakh shares this year. NCC Bank shares fell 0.70% to Tk14.20, Dhaka Bank dipped 0.88% to Tk11.20 despite the buy signal, and Pubali Bank eased 1.05% to Tk37.80, with such sponsor-director trades closely watched as indicators of boardroom confidence.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Akij Resources, new investors to take over Dominage Steel as DSE approves 30% stake transfer**

The DSE has approved an off-market transfer of a 30.01% stake in Dominage Steel Building Systems, under a BSEC directive, letting Akij Resources Limited and two individual investors take over ownership and management from the company's sponsor-directors. Akij Resources acquired the largest share, 1.20 crore shares each from the chairman and managing director plus smaller stakes from other directors, with shares transferred at the 30 September closing price under a lock-in period. The takeover follows a 54% year-on-year revenue decline to Tk5.75 crore and a net loss in July-December FY26, after a DSE inspection found the company's Narsingdi factory shut during an unannounced visit.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Foreign transactions in capital market rise 37.6pc in 8 months**

Foreign investors' total DSE transactions rose 37.6% to Tk3,701.29 crore in January-August 2026 from Tk2,687.39 crore a year earlier, already reaching about 94% of 2025's full-year total. DSE Managing Director Nuzhat Anwar attributed the rise to preparations to upgrade Bangladesh from frontier to emerging-market status, engagement with MSCI, Bangladesh Bank's simplification of Non-resident Investors' Taka Account rules letting foreign investors handle fund accounting at repatriation rather than per transaction, and progress toward a T+1 settlement system; monthly transactions fluctuated between Tk175.16 crore in April and Tk831.70 crore in May.

[Read the full story ›](#)**LPG price hike adds to consumer woes amid supply shortages**

BERC raised the official price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder by Tk252 to Tk1,837, but retail prices already range from Tk2,200 to Tk2,600, up to Tk1,000 above the benchmark, with many outlets out of stock; state-run LPGL's Tk777 cylinder covers under 2% of the market. The shortage stems partly from a pipeline-gas deficit of roughly 1,400 MMCFD against nearly 4,000 MMCFD demand, compounded by Saudi CP price hikes and freight costs surging to \$400 per tonne against BERC's \$160 benchmark; LPG imports fell from about 160,000 tonnes in August to 120,000 tonnes in September. CAB's Shamsul Alam called the hike a validation of market manipulation.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Overseas jobs fall 29% in September YoY**

Only 70,304 workers received overseas employment clearance in September, down 29% from 99,024 a year earlier, though up 11.7% from August, as restrictions in Malaysia, Oman and Bahrain and reduced UAE recruitment compound disruption from the Middle East war; total deployment fell about 32% to 569,979 workers in January-September. Saudi Arabia remained the top destination with 32,915 workers, followed by Singapore, Qatar and the Maldives. Remittances fell to an 11-month low of \$2.77

billion in September, though they stayed up 13.3% for the fiscal-year-to-date at \$8.59 billion, with the state minister citing a five-year, one-crore-job target.

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BRAC Bank targets becoming most impactful bank in 5 yrs

BRAC Bank MD and CEO Tareq Refat Ullah Khan said the bank aims to become Bangladesh's most impactful institution within five years, combining sustained profitability with SDG-aligned social impact, backed by BRAC's NGO ownership. Despite sector-wide headwinds including record-low private credit growth and NPLs above 30%, the bank's H1 2026 consolidated net profit rose 57% to Tk1,423 crore, deposits grew 25% to around Tk1.01 trillion, and its NPL ratio fell to 2.03% from 2.27%. The bank plans heavier technology investment, turning its Astha app, used by 1.2 million customers for Tk270 billion in monthly transactions, into a broader super app, while its CORPnet platform handled Tk1.43 trillion in H1 corporate transactions.

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Bangladesh deprived of \$410m in taxes in 2022 alone: TJN data

Bangladesh's illicit capital outflows hit a seven-year high of \$1.33 billion in 2022, with the associated tax loss estimated at around \$410 million, according to Tax Justice Network data, bringing cumulative outflows to about \$4.21 billion between 2016 and 2022. Top destinations included the British Virgin Islands, Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands, Singapore, Switzerland and Luxembourg, with CPD's Mustafizur Rahman noting these often serve as transit points rather than final destinations. Outflows rose sharply after 2020, more than quadrupling from \$327 million to \$1.33 billion by 2022, separate from Global Financial Integrity's larger trade-misinvoicing estimate of \$68.3 billion lost over 2013-2022.

[Read the full story ›](#)

Why fewer than 1% people in Bangladesh invest in stocks

Bangladesh has only around 17 lakh BO accounts against a population of nearly 18 crore, representing under 1% participation, with industry insiders estimating actual investors at no more than 2 lakh, well behind India's roughly 6% and Nepal's 26% rates. The piece attributes the low appetite to a history of fraud, weak dividend payouts despite strong cash reserves, concentrated gains in a handful of stocks fuelling manipulation of junk shares, and lenient punishment of manipulators, compounded by decisions such as extending closed-end mutual fund tenures and approving Sikder Insurance's IPO despite heavy junk-stock exposure; it urges BSEC Chairman Masud Khan's reform agenda to rebuild participation.

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