

TOP NEWS

BSEC fines Bangladesh Race Management Tk5 lakh for securities rules violation

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined Bangladesh Race Management PCL Tk5 lakh for violating securities rules related to financial reporting of mutual funds under its management. The regulator rejected the asset manager's explanation over Rule 33 of the BSEC (Mutual Fund) Rules, 2001, and said the non-compliance warranted punitive action to uphold market discipline, transparency and public interest. RACE has 30 days to pay the fine.

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Govt lifts 16-year ban on direct listing

The Ministry of Finance has withdrawn the 16-year-old restriction on direct listing, reopening the route for eligible multinational, state-owned and large private companies to list without raising fresh capital through an IPO. Under the proposed 2026 framework, qualified firms may offload 10%–20% of existing shareholders' holdings through the secondary market. Eligibility includes large private firms with turnover or assets of at least Tk500 crore, alongside specified government-linked, foreign-owned, telecom, banking and insurance entities.

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Mutual fund investors urged to assess NAV before making decisions

BSEC has urged retail investors to check a mutual fund's latest NAV per unit, financial health, tenure, portfolio composition and regulatory disclosures before investing. The regulator warned that some funds are trading at prices significantly above their NAV and said investors may not recover more than the fund's actual NAV if it is liquidated. BSEC also cautioned against relying on price surges, rumours, social-media speculation or persuasive advice when making investment decisions.

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Govt plans to cut business-startup process to 14 days with a single ID

The government plans to issue unique Business IDs and integrate licences, clearances and approvals through a single digital platform under BanglaBiz, aiming to reduce the business-startup process to 14 days from the current average of 355 days after company registration. A 14-day Business Readiness Package is being developed jointly by the commerce ministry and Invest Bangladesh. The reform could simplify or eliminate some licensing requirements, with full implementation expected within roughly one year.

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

Bangladesh's illicit capital outflows reached a seven-year high of US\$1.33 billion in 2022, with the associated tax loss estimated at around \$410 million, according to Tax Justice Network data. Estimated illicit financial outflows totalled about \$4.21 billion between 2016 and 2022 and increased more than sixfold over the period. The analysis identified offshore and international financial hubs including the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland and Luxembourg among recurring destinations.

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Rate gap with banks sends savers to NSCs

Demand for government savings certificates and other savings instruments has risen sharply as investors seek higher returns than those available on bank deposits. Net sales reached Tk4.04 billion in August 2026, while July-August net sales totalled Tk24.63 billion, up from Tk15.72 billion a year earlier. Bank deposits reportedly offer around 5%–6%, compared with 11.04%–11.76% on different savings schemes. The stronger demand reflects savers' preference for government-backed, relatively stable returns.

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LPG sells above BERC-fixed price despite Tk 252 hike

BERC has raised the official price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder by Tk252, or 15.89%, to Tk1,837, but consumers are reportedly paying Tk2,000–Tk2,200 as supply-demand imbalances persist. Autogas prices also increased to Tk84.62 per litre from Tk73.09. Private LPG operators have urged authorities to enforce the regulator-fixed price, while shortages and irregular supply have continued to create volatility in the domestic market.

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Banks cut CSR spending by 80% in five years

Banks have sharply reduced corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending as financial difficulties weakened lenders' capacity to contribute. Bangladesh Bank data show that banks spent Tk119 crore on CSR during January-June 2026, down from Tk615 crore in the same period of 2022; spending was Tk571 crore in H1 2023, Tk309 crore in H1 2024 and Tk150 crore in H1 2025. The latest amount was also nearly 40% below July-December 2025. Bankers linked the decline mainly to weaker profits, losses and rising NPLs. In H1 2026, health received Tk34.66 crore, education Tk24.13 crore and environment/climate initiatives Tk11.72 crore. The decline highlights pressure on bank earnings and could constrain social spending capacity unless asset quality and profitability improve.

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BTRC ranks second in govt evaluation

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) secured second place in an independent Finance Division performance evaluation for FY2023-24, scoring 3.17 out of 4 among 30 selected state-owned enterprises and autonomous organisations. The assessment covered financial management, corporate governance, transparency, operational efficiency and public-interest policies. BTRC collected Tk4,434 crore in revenue against a Tk3,555 crore target in FY2023-24 and reported cumulative collections of Tk81,891 crore against a Tk75,882 crore target through June 2025. Its regulatory initiatives include spectrum and tariff management, broadband 'One Country, One Rate', quality-of-service monitoring, consumer protection, digital security and action against illegal telecom equipment. The result indicates relatively strong institutional performance while reinforcing the regulator's role in improving telecom-sector governance and consumer protection.

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Project launched to improve RMG traceability, cut emissions

Bangladesh has launched a project to advance circularity, supply-chain traceability and decarbonisation in the garment sector while helping manufacturers comply with emerging trade regulations and strengthen export competitiveness. Five garment factories will initially receive technical support for circular practices, digital traceability and decarbonisation. The initiative was launched by Solidaridad with the Dutch embassy in Dhaka, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Dutch retail brands, technology innovators and industry bodies. The project will test solutions involving traceability, renewable energy, wastewater treatment and chemical management, aiming to turn regulatory requirements into commercially viable opportunities. The pilot is particularly relevant for exporters facing tighter traceability and environmental requirements in major international markets.

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