

TOP NEWS

DSE to compensate 17,332 fraud-hit investors, push risk-based oversight

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will begin paying compensation to 17,332 of the 17,925 investors affected by five defaulted brokerages - Moshior Securities, Tamha Securities, Crest Securities, Shah Mohammad Sagir & Co, and Banco Securities - from 28 September, letting them fully recover claims of up to Tk5 lakh each from the Investment Protection Fund (IPF). DSE Chairman Maminul Islam said the five brokerages had collectively embezzled Tk250 crore, with Tk35 crore already recovered and disbursed and a further Tk37.60 crore to be paid from the IPF over one to two months; the remaining 593 investors with larger claims will be addressed through legal action, asset liquidation and future IPF inflows. Alongside the payout, DSE Managing Director Nuzhat Anwar said the exchange will introduce risk-based capital supervision and digital surveillance of roughly 250 brokerage houses to prevent future fund diversion, while separately targeting T+1 settlement and a Nasdaq trade-matching engine as part of a broader market modernisation drive, alongside government efforts to issue sovereign bonds to attract foreign portfolio investment.

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ADB cuts Bangladesh growth forecast to 4% for FY27

The Asian Development Bank has trimmed its FY2026-27 growth projection for Bangladesh to 4%, down from 4.5% forecast in July, citing persistent banking-sector stress, structural bottlenecks and severe energy shortages that continue to restrict private-sector credit access. The ADB projects industrial growth slowing to 3.3% amid energy shortages and weak external demand, while services should grow a relatively resilient 4.7% on remittance inflows; average inflation is now forecast to climb to 9% in FY2027 from 8.7% in FY2026, driven by El Niño effects, energy-linked supply pressures and the latest fuel price hike, which the ADB said is already pushing up road transport, freight and launch fares. Private consumption will remain the main growth driver, supported by remittances, even as high inflation erodes purchasing power, while private investment stays muted under financial-sector stress, high borrowing costs and low business confidence.

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Stakeholders call for greater competition in Bangladesh's international bandwidth market

Industry stakeholders at a Dhaka seminar organised by the Telecom and Technology Reporters Network Bangladesh called for greater competition in the country's international bandwidth market, urging authorities to facilitate private investment in submarine cables, ensure open access to landing stations, and maintain stable, predictable sector policies. Speakers said Bangladesh, which currently uses around 13,500 Gbps of international bandwidth, needs multiple submarine cables and additional landing stations beyond Bangladesh Submarine Cables PLC to meet growing demand; the price of 1 Mbps of bandwidth has fallen from Tk75,000 in 2006 to around Tk120 today, and stakeholders estimated increased competition from private submarine cable operators could push it down to Tk60-70 by 2027. The seminar also recommended simplifying rules for private submarine cables, expanding domestic fibre sharing, increasing internet exchange points and rationalising broadband infrastructure taxes to attract investment from global tech firms such as Google, Meta, Akamai and Cloudflare.

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PM, WB president discuss development priorities, support for Bangladesh

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and World Bank Group President Ajay Banga met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to discuss Bangladesh's development priorities, economic progress and ways to strengthen World Bank support and expand partnership between Bangladesh and the institution going forward. Earlier in the day the prime minister attended a welcome breakfast hosted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres before joining the General Debate of the 81st UNGA session; he is scheduled to address the General Assembly on 24 September, delivering his first speech at the world body as prime minister, in which he is expected to outline Bangladesh's development priorities and its position on major regional and global issues.

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Fuel price hike to push up inflation, weaken consumption

The government's Tk20-per-litre fuel price hike, effective 21 September, will push inflation higher and weaken real disposable income and aggregate consumption, particularly for price-sensitive households, according to a BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage brief. Diesel, which accounts for around 65% of annual fuel consumption, saw the steepest percentage rise at 17.4%, and BRAC EPL said the adjustment follows five months of unchanged domestic prices despite rising global costs, with BPC's fuel-sales losses reaching an estimated Tk22,875 crore between March and August. The brokerage expects near-term upward pressure on inflation via transport, irrigation and food costs, softer consumption and output, and reduced corporate margins for firms with limited pricing power, while narrower BPC losses should ease government subsidy needs and offer modest support to the taka; it also flagged supply-security risks given disrupted Saudi pipeline capacity and tightening global diesel markets ahead of winter.

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Trump warns in UN speech he could 'annihilate' Iran without peace deal

US President Donald Trump told the UN General Assembly that the war with Iran had prevented Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and warned he could "annihilate the Islamic Republic" if no peace deal is reached, while predicting his administration would strike a deal after the 3 November US midterm elections. Trump called on other nations to join Washington in economically

isolating Iran to force it to the negotiating table, and used the speech to defend the February US-Israeli strikes and criticise the UN's encroachment on US sovereignty. The address kicked off a day of high-level diplomacy in which Trump was scheduled to meet more than a dozen world leaders, including on Gulf security concerns over Iran-backed Houthi advances in Yemen, as a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed his approval rating falling to an all-time low of 32% amid public concern over the cost-of-living impact of the conflict.

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China rejects US sanctions pressure on Iranian airlines

China condemned Washington's unilateral sanctions campaign against Iran's civil aviation sector, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun saying Beijing "consistently opposes illegal unilateral sanctions that lack a basis in international law or authorisation from the UN Security Council". The rebuke came after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said all Iranian airlines would be shut down worldwide within days under sanctions he described as an "economic D-Day" aimed at cutting Tehran off from financial resources, and follows the US Treasury's move to sanction all remaining untargeted Iranian airlines and their foreign supporters. The dispute surfaces days before a scheduled 24 September summit between Presidents Trump and Xi Jinping, and after Bessent held economic talks with Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng to lay the groundwork for the meeting, amid the ongoing US-Iran military conflict that began in February.

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How a Bangladeshi garment-maker fights West Asia energy crunch

As Bangladesh's gas and power crisis disrupts most garment factories - a survey of 134 knitwear factories found 55% had buyers cancel or cut orders since late August and 78% partially halted production - 4A Yarn Dyeing, a supplier to Walmart, Gap and Next, has kept operating uninterrupted by self-generating roughly 40% of its electricity through solar panels since 2019, with the rest from its own gas and diesel generation. Co-owner Abdullah Hil Nakib said costlier diesel has pushed the Savar-based factory's production costs up 2-3%, adding about Tk5 million (\$40,950) monthly, a burden that worsened after the government's fuel price hike of up to 17.4% took effect Monday; the company plans an industrial-scale battery system for further resilience, though Nakib acknowledged not every factory can afford similar backups. Other exporters described thinner margins, order cuts and air-freight costs, with Denim Expert's Mohiuddin Rubel warning that persistent gas shortages and power cuts, less severe in competitors like Vietnam and India, could erode Bangladesh's competitiveness in its garment sector, which accounts for over 80% of export earnings.

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Prime Finance struggles to pay outstanding dues

Non-bank financial institution Prime Finance & Investment Ltd, with 78% of its loans classified and a cumulative loss of Tk351 crore, has asked the BSEC to direct the DSE to waive a Tk14.045 million fine for failing to submit audited and quarterly financial statements for 2022 and 2023 within deadline, blaming delays in Bangladesh Bank's inspection reporting process. The company said it could not finalise its 2022 and 2023 accounts or hold AGMs on time because Bangladesh Bank's inspection summaries arrived more than a year late in each case, requiring High Court permission to hold its 2022 AGM in May 2025; the delays also pushed back its 2024 and 2025 filings. Prime Finance's shares trade in the DSE's Z category at around Tk2.90, with no dividend declared since FY2019 and a negative net asset value per share of Tk0.39,

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