

TOP NEWS

Foreign investors return to Dhaka stocks as reforms, MSCI move lift confidence

Foreign investors bought around Tk250 crore and sold about Tk180 crore of DSE shares between 1 and 24 September, a net inflow of roughly Tk70 crore that market insiders attribute to regulatory easing, the removal of the floor price, and MSCI's planned return to regular index reviews for Bangladesh from November 2026 after placing the market under special treatment in 2023. The BSEC has revised IPO and margin rules, drafted direct-listing rules for fundamentally sound and foreign companies, and pledged not to interfere unnecessarily in the market, while Bangladesh Bank raised the threshold for prior approval of capital repatriation to Tk100 crore from Tk10 crore and scrapped the requirement for an auditor's certificate on every non-resident transaction. Despite the improvement - foreign investors bought more than they sold on 13 of the last 24 trading days - foreign holdings remain a small share of the market at around Tk13,000 crore, with only about 132 of roughly 360 listed companies carrying foreign shareholding and BRAC Bank leading at around 35%.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Investor activity jumps 42% on DSE despite economic headwinds**

Average daily DSE turnover rose 42% to Tk785 crore last week even as fuel prices rose and Bangladesh Bank held its policy rate, with the benchmark DSEX gaining 46 points (0.83%) to close at 5,578 and the blue-chip DS30 adding 10 points to 2,112, though total market capitalisation fell Tk1,800 crore. Sheltech Brokerage said early-week buying was driven by Moody's revision of Bangladesh's outlook from negative to stable and improved gas supply reports, before fuel-price and Bangladesh Bank disappointment cooled sentiment later in the week; textiles led turnover at 20.50%, followed by insurance and pharmaceuticals, while mutual funds posted the highest sectoral return at 6.12%. First Prime Finance Mutual Fund topped gainers with a 50% surge, while Walton led losers, falling 12.95%.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Apex Footwear to raise Tk500cr via preference shares to pay off loans, declares 30% dividend**

Apex Footwear's board has approved raising up to Tk500 crore through redeemable preference shares to refinance existing loans, subject to shareholder and BSEC approval, alongside a 30% dividend for FY2025-26 comprising 15% cash and 15% stock. EPS rose to Tk7.91 from Tk6.90 a year earlier and restated NAV per share increased to Tk355.25 from Tk349.35, but net operating cash flow per share swung to minus Tk90.97 from a positive Tk45.19 in FY2024-25. The company has scheduled its AGM for 29 November, with the record date for dividend and AGM eligibility set at 15 October.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Banks born of political favour now drowning in bad debt**

Three of the nine banks licensed by the Awami League government in 2013 amid allegations of political favouritism are now severely distressed: Union Bank and Global Islami Bank, both since folded into Sammilito Islami Bank after S Alam Group control exposed hidden bad loans, had non-performing loan ratios of 97% and 97.27% respectively by June, while Padma Bank's NPLs reached 89% and Bangladesh Bank is considering a merger for it. Of the remaining six, NRB Commercial Bank and SBAC Bank carry double-digit NPL ratios of 21.43% and 16.27%, while NRB Bank, Modhumoti Bank and Meghna Bank all sit above the 5% safe threshold; only Midland Bank has stayed broadly healthy, though its bad loans rose to 5.67% by June. A second 2018-19 licensing round produced steadier performers - Community Bank's NPLs stood at just 0.33% and Citizens Bank's at 2.65% - while Shimanto Bank swung to an Tk82 crore loss as bad loans jumped. Economist Mustafa K Mujeri said approving banks and appointing officials on political rather than financial grounds is responsible for the sector's current troubles.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Trump calls Hormuz 'new US territory', shares map as Iran talks remain stalled**

US President Donald Trump again shared a map on Truth Social marking the Strait of Hormuz as "new US territory," repeating an image he first posted on 18 August, as Iran maintained the strategic waterway would stay closed amid stalled talks. Oil shipments through the strait have nearly halted, with Tehran warning it could strike unauthorised tankers attempting passage through the critical route for global oil and gas supplies.

[Read the full story ›](#)**RMG exports to UK reach \$915.63m in first two months of FY27**

Bangladesh's garment exports to the UK reached \$915.63 million in July-August of FY2026-27, up 3.74% year-on-year from \$882.62 million, with the two-month total already accounting for 20.86% of the full \$4,388.55 million earned from the UK market in FY2025-26. The gain was driven almost entirely by a 10.53% surge in August that offset a 2.44% year-on-year decline in July, lifting the monthly export average to \$457.82 million against a flat FY2025-26 average of \$365.71 million; Bangladesh Apparel Voice's Mohiuddin Rubel said August's rebound pulled overall UK apparel exports out of negative territory after a sluggish start to the fiscal year.

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Rancon Motor Bikes takes first step towards stock-market listing

Rancon Motor Bikes, the manufacturer and sole authorised distributor of Suzuki motorcycles in Bangladesh, has signed agreements with Lion City Advisory as corporate and capital-market adviser and CBC Capital & Equity Management as issue manager, marking the preparatory stage of a proposed stock-market listing. Key details - issue size, listing route, paid-up capital, financial performance and timeline - remain undisclosed, and it is unclear whether the company will pursue a conventional IPO or a direct listing; the company previously raised Tk1.50 billion via a zero-coupon bond in 2024 to repay bank loans. Established in 2012 as part of RANCON Group, with local Suzuki manufacturing in Gazipur since 2018, Rancon joins a growing list of companies - including DBL Group, City Group, BRB Cables and Confidence Infrastructure - that have recently signed with issue managers ahead of potential listings.

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Gold prices cut again after two consecutive hikes

BAJUS cut the price of 22-carat gold by Tk1,691 per bhorī to Tk232,930, including VAT, effective from 26 September, reversing two consecutive increases as tejabi gold prices eased in the local market. Under the revised rates, 21-carat gold now costs Tk222,491 per bhorī, 18-carat gold Tk191,056, and traditional-method gold Tk156,064; silver prices were also cut, with 22-carat silver down Tk291 to Tk4,841 per bhorī. BAJUS has now adjusted gold prices 117 times in 2026 (58 hikes, 58 cuts and one VAT adjustment) and silver 71 times (36 hikes, 35 cuts).

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Iran insists on diplomatic solution after Trump rejects peace plan

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said diplomacy remains the only path to resolving the conflict with the US and Israel after President Trump said he had rejected an Iranian proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and halt fighting, telling reporters Iran was “losing so badly” that it wanted an immediate deal. Araqchi said mediators had not officially conveyed a US rejection and that Iran was awaiting their formal response, while the Wall Street Journal reported Trump was privately skeptical Iran would meet his demands and saw a renewed bombing campaign as likely after the November US midterms. Iran's proposal reportedly involved a seven-day countdown to reopening the strait and a pause in regional fighting, but Iranian officials said they would grant no concessions on their nuclear programme, including uranium enrichment, even under a deal; the war, which began in February with US and Israeli strikes, has continued to disrupt oil flows and damage Iran's economy.

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