

TOP NEWS

BAPLC proposes 2026-30 roadmap to strengthen capital market

The Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) has proposed a measurable Capital Market Development Roadmap for 2026-30 in a 24 September meeting with BSEC Chairman Masud Khan, focusing on IPO quality, institutional investment, corporate bonds and market liquidity. Key asks include raising the 30% cap on using IPO proceeds to repay loans under the Public Offer of Equity Securities Rules 2025 (including classified or rescheduled loans, with disclosure safeguards), a Corporate Governance Code exception letting key executives hold roles in other companies within the same group, and BSEC action against so-called "AGM parties" that buy nominal shares before record dates and pressure companies. BAPLC also sought stronger surveillance against manipulation and insider trading, frameworks for share buybacks and employee stock option plans, and a competency-based approach to female independent directors. The proposals were presented for discussion only, with no indication that BSEC has accepted them or set an implementation timeline.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Term deposits jump Tk 378b in Apr-Jun as savers chase higher returns**

Fixed deposits at Bangladeshi banks rose Tk377.97 billion, or 3.64%, in April-June 2026 to Tk10.77 trillion, lifting their share of total deposits to 48.73% from 48.16% three months earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Growth was 14.57% year-on-year and outpaced both the January-March quarter (Tk240.05 billion, 2.36%) and the same quarter last year (Tk304.74 billion, 3.35%), while special notice deposits fell 7.85% to Tk1.67 trillion and the savings deposit share edged down to 20.63%. Total system deposits stood at Tk22.10 trillion at end-June. Bankers attribute the shift to competitive term-deposit rates under the market-based rate regime, elevated inflation and a preference for capital preservation, with Mutual Trust Bank CEO Syed Mahbubur Rahman saying savers are opting for fixed deposits because of better returns.

[Read the full story ›](#)**IPDC Finance gets central bank nod to launch Islamic finance window**

IPDC Finance has received in-principle approval from Bangladesh Bank to launch Shariah-based financing through a dedicated Islamic Finance Wing, subject to conditions, and will now amend its Memorandum and Articles, form an independent Shariah supervisory committee, set up a separate Islamic finance division, segregate Islamic funds, and put operational policies and separate accounting in place before applying for final approval. The Islamic operations will run alongside conventional business. Separately, IPDC reported a 37.6% year-on-year rise in H1 2026 net profit after tax to Tk20.7 crore, with total operating income up 28.9% to Tk206.4 crore and net interest income up 22.5% to Tk116.8 crore; around 60% of operating income came from core financing.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Apex Tannery starts work on Tk12cr effluent treatment plant**

Apex Tannery Limited has begun excavation for a Tk12 crore in-house effluent treatment plant (ETP), approved by its board on 13 January, which will also include a chrome recovery plant and a sewage treatment plant covering an estimated 12,000-15,000 square feet, according to a DSE disclosure. The project is intended to help the company meet environmental rules and international buyers' standards amid concerns over the capacity of the central ETP at the BSCIC Tannery Industrial Estate in Savar; no completion date has been disclosed. The company earlier approved annual leather sales of an estimated Tk26 crore to three related footwear companies (FB Footwear Tk15 crore, Footbed Footwear Tk10 crore, Nuovo Shoes Tk1 crore), and its shares closed at Tk93.50 on 27 September.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Oil heads higher as US-Iran peace talks in stalemate**

Oil prices rebounded more than 1% on Monday after President Trump rejected Iran's peace proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with Brent futures up \$1.32 (1.27%) at \$105.64 a barrel and US WTI up 70 cents (0.76%) at \$93.11. Trump told Axios he still expected more talks this week, while ANZ analysts flagged elevated geopolitical risk as Houthi and Iranian attacks on Saudi Arabia leave regional supply flows vulnerable, and record US diesel prices fuel debate over possible US diesel export curbs. Brent gained 0.4% last week while WTI lost 7.9%; meanwhile, Kpler data showed Middle East crude exports rebounded to 12.8 million barrels per day in September, the highest since the war began in February, with Hormuz shipments set to reach about 7.4 million bpd.

[Read the full story ›](#)**Lubricant prices climb as Middle East crisis squeezes Bangladesh market**

Lubricant prices in Bangladesh have risen by as much as 70% this year as the Middle East conflict disrupts base oil supplies and shipping, with base oil prices climbing from around \$850-900 per tonne before the crisis to \$2,000-2,200 and synthetic base oils above \$3,200. Industry insiders say the increase stems from global raw material and freight costs rather than the government's latest fuel price hike; retail examples include a 4-litre Mobil Special pack rising from Tk2,050 to Tk2,650 and Mobil 1 from Tk6,200 to Tk7,200. The Tk8,000 crore market depends entirely on imported base oils and additives, with domestic blenders meeting over half of demand, leaving it exposed to freight, insurance, dollar and letter-of-credit pressures, and industry players warn that further hikes could push price-sensitive buyers toward recycled or counterfeit products.

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LPG imports fall 25%, pushing cylinder prices above Tk2,000

Bangladesh's LPG imports fell to about 120,000 tonnes so far in September from around 160,000 tonnes in August, a 25% drop attributed to disruption of Hormuz and Red Sea shipping routes, vessel shortages and sharply higher freight costs, pushing the retail price of a 12-kg cylinder above Tk2,000 against the BERC-fixed Tk1,585. Importers say suppliers are delivering 20-40% less than contracted volumes and that import premiums have risen to \$260-400 per tonne from the \$160 assumed in BERC's pricing formula, leading some firms to cut or halt imports rather than absorb losses. BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed said the regulator will hold talks with importers and warned the market could worsen in October if cargoes are not secured, in a market with annual demand of 1.5-1.6 million tonnes and nearly 10 million consumers.

[Read the full story ›](#)

Bond market grows, but trust deficit holds it back

At a Daily Star discussion, industry leaders said Bangladesh's bond market is growing but remains far below potential because of weak accountability among issuers, auditors and credit rating agencies. UCB Investment CEO Tanzim Alamgir criticised ratings as lacking credibility and obtained mainly to meet regulatory requirements, and urged that bond defaults to individual investors be reported to the CIB; DSE MD Nuzhat Anwar said audit quality must improve, that DSE has cut bond listing fees by 80%, and that sovereign bonds are needed to create a benchmark. Government bonds dominate the DSE fixed-income segment with 217 issues and market capitalisation of Tk3,39,505 crore, against just 16 corporate bonds worth Tk4,040 crore, while market capitalisation-to-GDP stands at 11.55% versus India's 128.14%. BRAC Bank's Nazmul Ahsan called for allowing banks to offer wealth-management services and for sukuk and mobile-based digital bond platforms to widen access.

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Foreign loan inflow plunges 61% in Jul-Aug

Bangladesh received only about \$295 million in foreign loans from bilateral and multilateral lenders in July-August of FY2026-27, down 61% year-on-year, according to provisional Economic Relations Division data, driven by sharp falls in World Bank disbursements (\$74 million versus \$253 million) and European lender financing (\$21 million versus \$348 million). Loan commitments from international lenders also declined, while debt repayments rose 5% to nearly \$700 million over the period. For FY2025-26, foreign financing totalled \$8 billion, down from \$8.57 billion the previous year, while repayments rose nearly 11% to \$4.49 billion.

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TEAM (WEALTH, ADVISORY & RESEARCH)

Name	Designation	Mobile Number	Email Address
Mr. Md. Shiful Islam	SVP, HoWAR	+8801701-217624	shifulislam@pbil.com.bd
Mr. Syed Reazul Haque	FAVP, Senior Manager	+8801701-217625	reazul@pbil.com.bd
Mr. Md. Yousuf Ali	EO, Manager	+8801701-217636	yousuf@pbil.com.bd
Mr. Samin Farhan Chowdhury	SO, Research Analyst	+8801679-492882	samin@pbil.com.bd

CONTACT

Department	Wealth, Advisory and Research (WAR)
Team Email	research@pbil.com.bd
Address	Tajwar Center (5th Floor), House: 34, Road No: 19/A, Block: E, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
Phone	09678-771773
Email	info@pbil.com.bd
Website	https://pbil.com.bd/