BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

July 08, 2026

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Key News

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Stock Market & Company

DSE suspends trading in loss-making Zeal Bangla Sugar as DSEX ends in the red

The Business Standard, July 07, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (7 July) temporarily suspended trading in the shares of Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills Ltd after the loss-making company's stock posted an unusually sharp price increase, saying the move was aimed at protecting investors, ensuring fair price discovery and maintaining market stability.
- The stock rose 8.53% to Tk180.70 before trading was halted at around 10:45am. The exchange said the rally appeared inconsistent with the company's financial and operational performance, prompting regulatory scrutiny.
- Under its listing regulations, the DSE may suspend trading in a listed company's shares if it detects abnormal price movements, suspicious trading patterns or other circumstances that could undermine market integrity. Such action allows regulators to determine whether the movement was driven by undisclosed price-sensitive information (PSI), market manipulation or other regulatory violations.
- The exchange said trading may also be halted in cases involving delayed financial disclosures, misleading or incomplete information, corporate governance irregularities, concealment of material information, loan defaults or court rulings that could materially affect a company's financial position.
- The decision drew mixed reactions from market participants. While many brokerage houses supported a regulatory investigation into the unusual price movement, some argued that suspending trading in the entire stock could unfairly affect ordinary investors.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-suspends-trading-loss-making-zeal-bangla-sugar-dsex-ends-red-1482466

UCB gets BSEC approval for Tk775cr rights issue to meet capital requirement

The Business Standard, July 07, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) to raise Tk775.18 crore through a rights share offering, enabling the bank to meet the central bank's minimum paid-up capital requirement for dividend eligibility.
- The approval came at the regulator's commission meeting yesterday, according to a BSEC press release.
- Under the offer, UCB will issue 77.51 crore rights shares at a face value of Tk10 each, with shareholders entitled to one rights share for every two existing shares. The bank said the proceeds will be used to strengthen its capital base and support business operations.
- The rights issue will increase UCB's paid-up capital from Tk1,550.37 crore to Tk2,326 crore, taking it above the Tk2,000 crore minimum threshold recently set by Bangladesh Bank for commercial banks seeking to declare dividends.

- For the January-March quarter of 2026, UCB reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk0.07, up from a restated Tk0.04 in the same period a year earlier. The bank attributed the improvement to stronger performance by its subsidiaries.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-gets-bsec-approval-tk775cr-rights-issue-meet-capital-requirement-1482511

ICB gets three years more to repay Tk3,000cr amid financial strain

The Business Standard, July 07, 2026

- The government has extended the state guarantee for the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), a state-owned investment bank, for a Tk3,000 crore loan from Bangladesh Bank, granting a three-year extension until 2029 with a view to stabilising the country's capital market.
- Amid mounting pressure and failure to repay the outstanding loan despite the expiration of the original deadline in May, the ICB applied to the government urging an extension, as it is struggling to repay due to a severe liquidity crunch.
- In a letter expressing its concerns, the ICB stated that if it is forced to repay the loan now, it would have to sell shares in the secondary market, which would have a negative impact on the market.
- According to an official letter from the Financial Institutions Division (FID) of the Ministry of Finance, the sovereign guarantee has been extended for three years, effective from 13 May, 2026 with the primary objective of stabilising the country's capital market.
- However, the relief comes with strict financial strings attached that ICB must ensure full repayment of the principal amount within the extended deadline, while keeping all other original terms of the loan agreement unchanged.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-gets-three-years-more-repay-tk3000cr-amid-financial-strain-1482491

BSEC chief vows to cut red tape, fight scams

The Financial Express, July 08, 2026

- The newly appointed chief of the securities regulator said he had been given a mandate by the government's top leadership when he took charge, and that mandate was to turn the market around, for which he would enjoy absolute independence.
- Masud Khan, in his maiden interview with The FE as chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), spoke at great length about his market goals and his means of accomplishing them.
- He said he would put emphasis on simplifying rules and regulations to make the secondary market attractive for non-listed companies and investors, and on adopting automation to discipline market stakeholders. If any interference came in the way of his work, Mr Khan said, he would leave the position.
- "I will not make any compromise," added the BSEC chief.First target: listing large local and multinational firmsMr Khan said he would strive to bring multinational and large local firms to the market through direct listing.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-chief-vows-to-cut-red-tape-fight-scams

Embattled Uttara Finance discloses years of losses after BB intervention

The Financial Express, July 07, 2026

- Distressed non-bank financial institution Uttara Finance and Investments Limited revised down its financial results of 2019 from a profit of Tk 1.18 billion to a loss of Tk 3.1 billion, revealing its true status on orders from the central bank.
- The NBFI also reconfirmed its loss of Tk 4.7 billion in 2020 and disclosed for the first time a loss of Tk 3.1 billion in 2021.
- Even after the delayed earnings disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Monday, investors of the firm are yet to know the results for the period of 2022-2025.Uttara Finance had stopped publishing its financial results after 2019.

- Later, Bangladesh Bank conducted a special audit and found a serious case of fund embezzlement. Media reports suggested fund misappropriation of Tk 40 billion to Tk 60 billion.
- In 2022, the central bank removed the NBFI's managing director, SM Shamsul Arefin, over involvement in fund embezzlement.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/embattled-uttara-finance-discloses-years-of-losses-after-bb-intervention

Economy & Industry

Bangladesh FDI rose 45% in 2025: UNCTAD

The Daily Star, July 07, 2026

- Bangladesh saw a rebound in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in 2025, becoming the third-largest recipient of overseas capital in South Asia after India and Pakistan, according to the World Investment Report (WIR) 2026, released today.
- FDI inflows into Bangladesh rose 45 percent to $1.78 billion in 2025 from $1.23 billion a year earlier, ending two consecutive years of decline, according to the report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- The latest WIR shows that global foreign direct investment rose 6 percent to $1.6 trillion following declines over the previous two years. "However, growth remains fragile and uneven."
- Inflows increased by 11 percent to $723 billion in developed economies, compared with 2 percent growth in developing economies. The increase was concentrated in Europe, supported by flows through financial centres and investment hubs.
- On the other hand, FDI inflows to developing economies rose 2 percent to $901 billion in 2025, while developing Asia remained the largest recipient among developing regions.Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and structurally weak and vulnerable economies showed diverse trends, according to the report.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-fdi-rose-45-2025-unctad-4217996

Steel industry faces upgrade pressure as infrastructure, high-rises demand stronger materials

The Business Standard, July 07, 2026

- Bangladesh's infrastructure drive is reshaping not only the country's skyline but also the future of its steel industry.
- As major projects such as the Padma Bridge, Dhaka Metro Rail, elevated expressways, economic zones and high-rise buildings require stronger and more durable materials, engineers and industry people say the focus must gradually shift from producing more steel to producing better-quality steel through advanced technology.
- Industry insiders estimate that the country now consumes around 8 million tonnes of steel annually, with nearly 80% used in construction.
- Backed by investments worth tens of thousands of crores of taka, the sector has reduced dependence on imported finished steel and created employment for hundreds of thousands of people.
- Globally, steelmaking is undergoing a technological shift.According to the World Steel Association, production through electric arc furnaces is expanding as countries focus on cleaner manufacturing, greater recycling and higher-quality steel.
- Unlike conventional induction furnaces, modern electric arc furnaces combined with ladle refining furnaces allow manufacturers to better control chemical composition, remove impurities and produce more consistent steel.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/steel-industry-faces-upgrade-pressure-infrastructure-high-rises-demand-stronger

International

Saudi Arabia may expand oil pipeline to Red Sea

The Daily Star, July 08, 2026

- Saudi Arabia is considering expanding the capacity of its crude oil pipeline to the western Red Sea coast, five sources close to the matter said, enabling the kingdom and possibly neighbours to transport more oil without crossing the Strait of Hormuz.
- The East-West pipeline was built in the early 1980s and has become crucial since the start of the Iran war in February and the resulting halt to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.
- It can transport up to 7 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. About 2 million bpd feed refineries on the west coast and roughly 5 million bpd are for export, the CEO of state-backed oil company Aramco said in May.
- The kingdom is in preliminary talks with some of its neighbours about the potential expansion of the pipeline's capacity by up to 2 million bpd, the sources said.
- It was unclear if Aramco's planned capacity increase would involve upgrades to existing infrastructure or construction of a new pipeline. One of the sources said the increase would include a smaller second pipe for oil products. Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar all lack routes that can bypass Hormuz while Iraq's pipeline to Turkey, dogged by disputes and repeated shutdowns, runs well below capacity.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/saudi-arabia-may-expand-oil-pipeline-red-sea-4218366

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