BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

July 20, 2026

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Key News

Stock Market & Company

Insurance stocks tumble as tighter margin rules trigger liquidity fears

The Business Standard, July 19, 2026

- The country's capital market began the week on a bearish note as the benchmark index retreated further today (19 July), driven by a sharp sell-off in insurance stocks.
- Investor sentiment was rattled by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's recent proposal to tighten margin lending regulations specifically for the insurance sector.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange plunged by 44 points, or 0.75%, to close the session at 5,855, while the blue-chip DS30 index slipped 16 points to settle at 2,210.
- Market insiders noted that the insurance sector's dismal performance was a direct reaction to the exchange commission's draft amendment of margin rules, which has been released for public opinion.
- Under the proposed guidelines, the regulator intends to cap the margin loan ratio for life insurance companies at 1:0.25, a stark contrast to the 1:1 ratio available for other firms.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/insurance-stocks-tumble-tighter-margin-rules-trigger-liquidity-fears-1492646

United Insurance shares jump 9.81% amid 45% EPS jump

The Business Standard, July 19, 2026

- United Insurance, a listed insurer, reported a 45% year-on-year rise in earnings per share (EPS) for the second quarter of 2026, driven by higher underwriting profit, sending its shares to the daily upper circuit.
- The company's shares gained 9.81%, or Tk4.70, to close at Tk52.60 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- DSE data showed that at the beginning of trading sessions, United Insurance shares adjusted opening price was Tk47.90 each, while trade begun, shares jumped at Tk52.10 each.
- According to a disclosure published today (19 July), its EPS surged to Tk1.75 during the April-June quarter, at the same time of the previous year, it was Tk1.21.
- Its disclosure also said, it's EPS, in the half-year during the January to June period, stood at Tk1.99, which is 20% growth over the same time of the previous year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/united-insurance-shares-jump-981-amid-45-eps-jump-1492666

BSEC moves to ease margin loan rules; experts urge caution

The Business Standard, July 19, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has proposed sweeping amendments to its margin loan regulations, easing several key provisions in an effort to improve liquidity in the capital market while strengthening the overall risk management framework.
- Market participants say the proposed reforms could inject much-needed liquidity into the market by expanding margin financing capacity and making the facility accessible to a wider pool of investors. However, they also express caution that easier access to leverage could encourage speculative trading and increase market risk if not accompanied by effective regulatory oversight.
- The securities regulator approved the draft amendments to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Margin) Rules, 2025 on 14 July. The draft was published on the commission's website today (19 July) for public consultation, with stakeholders invited to submit their opinions within the next two weeks.
- The most significant amendment would raise the maximum margin financing limit for stockbrokers, merchant banks and portfolio managers from three times to five times their core capital or net worth, whichever is higher.
- According to market participants, the existing ceiling has limited the ability of many institutions to meet investor demand for margin loans. Raising the limit is expected to expand financing capacity, improve market liquidity and support trading activity at a time when the capital market continues to face a prolonged liquidity shortage.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-moves-ease-margin-loan-rules-experts-urge-caution-1492641

Paramount Insurance posts 145% surge in Q2 profit

The Business Standard, July 19, 2026

- Paramount Insurance Company Limited reported a 145% year-on-year increase in profit for the second quarter (April–June) of 2026, driven by higher premium income and lower net claims.
- According to a disclosure published today (19 July), the insurer's earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk0.98 for the quarter, up from Tk0.40 in the corresponding period last year.
- For the first half (January-June) of 2026, EPS increased to Tk2.19 from Tk1.58 a year earlier.
- Despite the strong earnings growth, the company's share price fell 3.39% to Tk62.70 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange today.
- Net operating cash flow per share climbed to Tk1.95 during the first half, compared with Tk0.45 in the same period last year. The company attributed the improvement to steady growth in premium income and higher premium deposits.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paramount-insurance-posts-145-surge-q2-profit-1492631

Should IPO proceeds go toward bank loans? BSEC faces growing demand

The Financial Express, July 19, 2026

- The securities regulator is under renewed pressure to allow companies to repay bank loans with IPO proceeds. Experts suggest this permission should be granted if the borrowing was undertaken for business growth. Otherwise, there is a risk of misappropriating public funds, as was the case with depositors' funds that banks mishandled, resulting in loan defaults.
- At a meeting at the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Wednesday, issuer companies sought the authority to decide how to utilize IPO proceeds.
- The existing public issue rules allow a company to utilize up to 30 percent of IPO proceeds to repay debts received for Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation, and Expansion (BMRE) purposes. However, the loans must not be classified or

rescheduled. The company is required to submit certification from both the auditor and the bank regarding the utilisation of the loans involved.

- After the meeting, representatives of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) told the media that they wanted permission to use more than 70 per cent of the funds raised through initial public offerings (IPOs) or repeat public offerings (RPOs) to repay bank loans.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/should-ipo-proceeds-go-toward-bank-loans-bsec-faces-growing-demand

Economy & Industry

Will 'Invest Bangladesh' make investing easier?

The Daily Star, July 19, 2026

- For years, investors in Bangladesh have been voicing their grievances about navigating a maze of regulators, tax authorities and utility providers, rather than the lack of an investment promotion agency.
- Invest Bangladesh -- about to become the country’s sole investment promotion agency -- may simplify part of that journey, but it cannot remove every roadblock on its own.
- Parliament on July 15 passed the Invest Bangladesh Bill, 2026 ,clearing the way for the merger of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) and the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) into a single agency, Invest Bangladesh.
- The law will take effect on a date to be announced in the official gazette.
- The Privatisation Commission and the Board of Investment (BOI) were merged into a single agency, the Bida, on September 1, 2016 under the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Act, 2016.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/will-invest-bangladesh-make-investing-easier-4227631

Govt seeks early disposal of ILO complaint, cites labour reforms

The Daily Star, July 19, 2026

- Labour and Employment Minister Ariful Haque Chowdhury today urged the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to expedite the disposal of the complaint pending against Bangladesh under Article 26, saying the country had made significant progress in reforming its labour sector.
- He made the call during a bilateral meeting with ILO Director-General Gilbert F Houngbo at the secretariat, where they discussed labour law reforms, employment generation, workers' rights and compliance with international labour standards.
- An Article 26 complaint is the ILO's highest-level investigative process. It allows countries or ILO delegates to file a formal complaint against a member state for failing to comply with a ratified labour convention.
- According to a labour ministry press release, Ariful said the government remained committed to protecting workers' rights and ensuring safe working conditions.
- He said the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2026, was enacted as part of efforts to align the country's labour laws with international standards.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-seeks-early-disposal-ilo-complaint-cites-labour-reforms-4227581

International

US import prices unexpectedly rise in June

The Daily Star, July 19, 2026

- US import prices unexpectedly rose in June as declines in the costs of food and energy products were more than offset by higher prices for capital and consumer goods.
- This led to the largest annual increase in imported inflation in nearly four years. Import prices increased 0.3 percent last month after a downwardly revised 1.7 percent advance in May, according to the Labor Department.
- Economists polled by Reuters had forecast import prices, which exclude tariffs, decreasing 0.7 percent after a previously reported 1.9 percent rise in May.
- In the 12 months through June, import prices surged 7.1 percent. That was the biggest advance since August 2022 and followed a 6.6 percent increase in May.
- The monthly increase in import prices bucked declines in producer and consumer prices in June, which were attributed to the retreat in oil prices as a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran took hold.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-import-prices-unexpectedly-rise-june-4227826

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