BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

June 30, 2026

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Stock Market & Company

Dividend tax slashed, listing threshold axed to ignite capital market

The Business Standard, June 29, 2026

- The government has unveiled one of the most comprehensive fiscal packages for Bangladesh's capital market in recent years, cutting taxes on dividend income, removing investment limits for mutual fund tax rebates and easing listing requirements in a bid to attract fresh investment and deepen the market.
- The reforms, incorporated in the finance bill passed in parliament today (29 June), are expected to benefit retail investors, institutional investors, asset managers and companies seeking to raise funds through the stock market.
- At the heart of the reforms is a major overhaul of dividend taxation, a move designed to encourage a long-term, dividend-centric investment culture.
- Under the new law, the tax rate on dividend income for individual retail investors has been slashed to a flat 15%, which will now be treated as a final tax liability, according to the official of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- Previously, while tax was deducted at source at 10-15%, investors were often subject to additional payments during their final income tax assessments based on their respective tax slabs. This complexity often led to higher effective tax burdens and discouraged investors from holding high-yield stocks.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dividend-tax-slashed-listing-threshold-axed-ignite-capital-market-1475656

First Finance skips 2025 dividend as losses deepen

The Business Standard, June 29, 2026

- Listed non-bank financial institution (NBFI) First Finance Limited has recommended no dividend for the year ended 31 December 2025 as mounting losses, negative shareholders' equity and a weakening financial position continued to weigh on the company.
- The decision was approved at a meeting of the company's board of directors today (29 June), according to a price-sensitive information disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Following the declaration, the company's shares traded without a price limit. Despite this, the NBFI's stock fell 2.44% to Tk4 on the DSE.
- According to the financial statements, First Finance reported a loss per share (EPS) of Tk6.66 for 2025, compared with a loss of Tk5.88 a year earlier, reflecting a further deterioration in its financial performance.
- Its net asset value (NAV) per share also worsened, falling to negative Tk46.01 at the end of 2025 from negative Tk37.86 a year earlier, indicating a further erosion of shareholders' equity.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/first-finance-skips-2025-dividend-losses-deepen-1475651

Zero-coupon bond income to remain tax-free for individual investors

The Business Standard, June 29, 2026

- The government has decided to retain the tax exemption on income earned from zero-coupon bonds for individual investors, reversing a proposal in the FY2026-27 budget to withdraw the long-standing benefit.
- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury announced the decision today (29 June) while delivering his concluding remarks before the national budget was passed in parliament.
- The move comes as a relief for individual investors, whose income from zero-coupon bonds will continue to be excluded from taxable income.
- A zero-coupon bond is a debt instrument issued at a discount to its face value and does not pay periodic interest. Investors earn returns by receiving the bond's full face value when it matures.
- The tax exemption was introduced through the Finance Act for FY2007-08, effective from 1 July 2007, to encourage individual participation in the bond market and support the development of Bangladesh's debt market.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/zero-coupon-bond-income-remain-tax-free-individual-investors-1475636

Meghna Life keeps dividend unchanged at 15% for 2025

The Business Standard, June 29, 2026

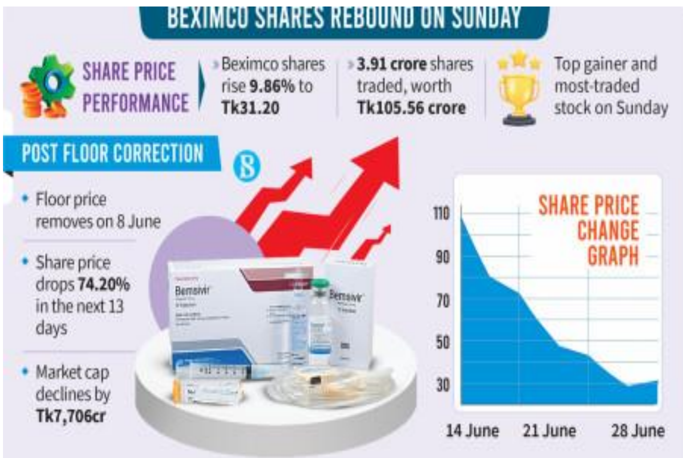
- Listed life insurer Meghna Life Insurance Company Limited has recommended a 15% cash dividend for the year ended December 31, 2025, matching the same payout made to shareholders the previous year.
- The recommendation was approved at a meeting of the company's board of directors today (29 June), according to a price-sensitive information (PSI) disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- The company's annual general meeting (AGM) will be held virtually on 20 August, 2026, with the record date set for 23 July, 2026. In line with stock exchange regulations, there was no price limit on the trading of the company's shares yesterday.
- Despite the dividend announcement, the company's share price fell 2.30% to Tk59.50 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (29 June).
- According to the disclosure, Meghna Life reported a negative net operating cash flow per share of Tk4.19 for the year ended 31 December 2025, compared with a negative Tk13.71 in the previous year. Although the figure remained negative, it marked a significant improvement in the company's operating cash flow.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/meghna-life-keeps-dividend-unchanged-15-2025-1475631

Bears loosen grip as Beximco shares stage rebound to lead DSE turnover

The Business Standard, June 29, 2026

- In a sharp reversal of recent market sentiment, Beximco Limited staged a strong comeback on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday, emerging as the day's top gainer after weeks of relentless selling pressure.
- The heavyweight stock surged by 9.86% to close at Tk31.20 per share, while investor participation skyrocketed as 3.91 crore shares changed hands, generating a staggering turnover of Tk105.56 crore, which made it the most-traded stock on the premier bourse.



- The rebound offers some relief to investors following a brutal correction triggered by the removal of the stock's long-standing floor price on 9 June. Since the move by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Beximco shares nosedived by 74.20% across just 13 trading sessions.
- The collapse wiped out around Tk7,706 crore from the company's market capitalisation, with the share price crashing to Tk28.40 from its pre-removal level of Tk110.10, representing a massive loss of Tk81.70 per share.
- According to the company's May shareholding data, sponsors and directors hold 33.11% of the shares, general investors 33.36%, institutional investors 32.59%, and foreign investors 0.94%.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bears-loosen-grip-beximco-shares-stage-rebound-lead-dse-turnover-1474806

Economy & Industry

Banglalink parent Veon proposes $1b investment initiative

The Daily Star, June 29, 2026

- Veon, the parent company of Banglalink, has proposed a $1 billion investment initiative in Bangladesh, with an immediate commitment of $250 million, as the global digital operator seeks to expand its presence in the country’s digital economy.
- The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and Veon Chairman Augie Fabela at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday morning.
- Called “Invest in Bangladesh NOW!”, the initiative is a joint public-private proposal with the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and ICT aimed at attracting more foreign direct investment into the country’s digital sector.
- According to a public official familiar with the discussions, the initiative will focus on next-generation digital infrastructure, digital services, digital banking, artificial intelligence and mobile financial services.
- In general, the goal is to position Bangladesh as a leading destination for global digital investment, according to the official.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banglalink-parent-veon-proposes-1b-investment-initiative-4211641

BB caps banks' lending-deposit spread at 4 percentage points

The Daily Star, June 29, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has instructed banks to keep the weighted average difference between their lending and deposit rates, known as the intermediation spread, within 4 percentage points for all sectors except credit cards and consumer finance.
- The central bank issued a circular today, saying the decision was taken to ensure that borrowing costs remain reasonable for businesses and productive sectors.
- The BB said that after the introduction of the market-based interest rate regime in May 2024, no specific limit on the intermediation spread had been in place. As a result, many banks widened the gap between lending and deposit rates by raising lending rates more sharply than deposit rates.
- According to the circular, the unusually high intermediation spread has increased financing costs for businesses and industries, hampering economic activity and industrial growth.
- To address the issue, Bangladesh Bank has directed banks to maintain the weighted average spread between lending and deposit rates at no more than 4 percentage points for all loans, except those extended through credit cards and consumer finance.
- The central bank issued the instruction under the powers vested in it by the Bank Companies Act, 1991, and said the directive takes effect immediately.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-caps-banks-lending-deposit-spread-4-percentage-points-4211431

International

South Korea to invest $1.2tn in chips, AI data centres

The Daily Star, June 29, 2026

- South Korea will invest nearly $1.2 trillion -- equivalent to more than two-thirds of its GDP -- in a new chip-building hub and AI data centres over several years, as it seeks to profit from soaring demand while developing previously neglected regions.
- The enormous cash injection comes as Asia's fourth-largest economy rides high on a global AI boom -- with South Korean memory chipmakers emerging as a crucial cog in the fast-moving industry.
- "Speed is the only path to survival. We must secure the core elements of artificial intelligence faster than any other nation," President Lee Jae Myung said in Seoul at an event to unveil the public-private collaboration.
- Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix will make a record investment of 800 trillion won (around $520 billion) in a new semiconductor fabrication hub in the country's southwest, the government said.
- Both companies have seen profits and share prices skyrocket in recent months, as frenzied demand for AI infrastructure squeezes the global supply of memory chips.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/south-korea-invest-12tn-chips-ai-data-centres-4211611

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