Economy

BDT 400b SOE debt pile fuels fiscal concern

July 13, 2026

- Bangladesh's financial architecture is facing significant pressure as the state-backed contingent liabilities for underperforming State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and autonomous bodies reached BDT 400.12bn (USD 3.27bn) in sovereign guarantees till the last fiscal year, officials say.
- This massive debt pile, triggered by heavy overseas and domestic borrowing by core public sectors like Biman Bangladesh, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), and state-run fertiliser companies, has surfaced as a major macroeconomic threat.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/tk-400b-soe-debt-pile-fuels-fiscal-concern

Govt unveils BDT 60,000cr incentives, tightens tech-driven tax crackdown on corporates: Minister

July 13, 2026

- The government has announced a BDT 600bn (USD 4.92bn) incentive package to boost production and ease supply-side pressures while stepping up technology-driven monitoring and risk-based audits to curb tax evasion by wealthy individuals and large corporate entities, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told the parliament on 12 July.
- He said the government will expand taxpayers' databases, strengthen information sharing with government agencies and take strict legal action against deliberate tax evaders to make the tax system more transparent and accountable.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-unveils-tk60000cr-incentives-tightens-tech-driven-tax-crackdown-corporates-minister

Several nondescript sectors picked as potential GDP hikers

July 13, 2026

- Several nondescript sectors, like courier services, money exchange, foundation-run activities, and arts and recreation, have been picked up for having major untapped potential to raise Bangladesh's economic growth.
- Based on preliminary case studies, the national statistical agency - BBS -- estimates that the sectors collectively contributed more than BDT 4.54bn (USD 37.2mn) to the economy few years back. The sectors also emerged as important sources of employment as they generated nearly 21,000 jobs during the study period of 2024.
- Officials at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, however, say both their employment and economic contributions are likely to be substantially higher in the current fiscal year. They are growing sectors following new needs stemming from rapid urbanization and growing middle-income class.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/several-nondescript-sectors-picked-as-potential-gdp-hikers

Tax net expands to cover foreign digital businesses

July 13, 2026

- A significant amendment to Bangladesh's income-tax law has paved the way for taxing foreign digital businesses that have no physical presence in the country but serve 0.1 million or above Bangladeshi users. Under the amendment, a non-resident entity will be deemed to have a permanent establishment (PE) in Bangladesh if it has 100,000 or more digital or online customers or subscribers in the country.
- Tax officials say information on the subscriber base of such digital businesses, including online content creators and "view-based" businesses, would be obtained from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). However, Bangladeshi freelancers and local content creators will not fall within the scope of the new provision.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/tax-net-expands-to-cover-foreign-digital-businesses

Banking

New entrepreneurs to get collateral-free loans up to BDT 1.0mn (USD 8,197.7), startup fund launched

July 13, 2026

- New entrepreneurs will be eligible for collateral-free loans of up to BDT 1.0mn (USD 8,196.72) at a maximum interest rate of 7pc under an expanded Bangladesh Bank refinancing scheme, while startup businesses will have access to a new BDT 5.0bn (USD 40.98mn) refinancing fund at a 4pc interest rate, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told the parliament on 12 July.
- With the initiative of Bangladesh Bank and participation from 39 scheduled banks, Bangladesh Start-up Investment Company PLC has been formed to provide equity support to promising startups.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/new-entrepreneurs-get-collateral-free-loans-tk10-lakh-startup-fund-launched-1486271

IMF reviews bad loans, bank reforms
July 13, 2026

- The authorities briefed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 12 July on the new pay scale for public sector employees, while the visiting mission also received updates on bad loans and banking sector reforms.
- Finance ministry officials said the Cabinet will decide how many phases will be used to introduce the pay scale. They added that the required funds have already been set aside in the current budget.
- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has told the IMF that it plans to introduce a comprehensive framework by December to resolve non-performing loans (NPLs), as part of wider efforts to reduce bad loans and strengthen the banking sector. Under the proposed framework, banks with NPLs above 10pc will have to prepare a detailed roadmap, timeline and targets for cutting their bad loans. The plans will require approval from their boards of directors, central bank officials said.
- They also told the mission that the government has decided to scrap Section 18(a) of the Bank Resolution Act, 2026. The provision would have allowed former owners to regain control of weak banks after they had been merged.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/imf-reviews-bad-loans-bank-reforms-4222411

Capital Market

BSRM, ACME Labs, Power Grid enter DS30 after rebalancing
July 13, 2026

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has revamped its blue-chip index, the DSE 30 Index (DS30), with three companies set to join and three others excluded from the list after the latest semi-annual rebalancing.
- The index is widely used by institutional and retail investors as a benchmark for assessing the performance of Bangladesh's equity market.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bsrm-acme-labs-power-grid-enter-ds30-after-rebalancing

Web portal to showcase open-ended mutual fund performance
July 13, 2026

- The securities regulator has moved to launch a web portal that will display the performance of all open-ended mutual funds (MFs) to help investors make investment decisions. Usually, asset management companies post results of their funds' performance on their respective platforms. So, investors have to go to separate platforms to gather information about separate fund's performance. Hence, comparing one fund's performance with another becomes cumbersome.
- In other countries including India, there are several common, centralized portals that aggregate and display financial data tied to mutual funds operating globally, which allow investors to compare returns, fees, and risks across multiple countries.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/web-portal-to-showcase-open-ended-mutual-fund-performance

International

Gold under pressure
July 13, 2026

- Spot gold eased on Friday and was on course for a weekly decline, as higher oil prices linked to the Middle East conflict fuelled inflation concerns and bolstered expectations of tighter US monetary policy.
- The major factor here is the restarting of tensions between the US and Iran, with investors broadly not wanting to hold on to gold and silver at this point, Bart Melek, global head of commodity strategy at TD Securities, said
- While gold is generally viewed as an inflation hedge, higher interest rates tend to weigh on the non-yielding metal by increasing the appeal of interest-bearing assets. Investors are now eyeing next week's inflation data and Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's testimony for further insight into the monetary direction.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-under-pressure-4222276

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Research Team

Name	Designation	Email	Contact Number
Tanay Kumar Roy, CFA	Head of Equity Research	tanay@idlc.com	880 1708 46 95 80
Md. Fahad Been Ayub	Business Analyst	MdFahad@IDLC.com	880 1521 43 81 88
Mohammad Tashnim	Senior Research Associate	mtashnim@idlc.com	880 1730 70 16 45
Zareen Binte Shahjahan	Senior Research Associate	zareen@idlc.com	880 1708 46 95 95
Muntasir Mohammad	Analyst	muntasirm@idlc.com	

IDLC Securities Limited

DR Tower (4th Floor), 65/2/2 Bir Protik Gazi Golam Dastagir Road,

Purana Paltan, Dhaka - 1000

Tel: +8809609994352

Fax: +88029574366

E-mail: **IDLCSLResearch@idlc.com**