Economy
VAT schedule change may widen revenue gap
July 15, 2026

- Changes to the VAT-payment schedule could put immense pressure on field officials to achieve the government's ambitious VAT-collection target of BDT 2.23tn (USD 18.28bn) in the current fiscal year, according to tax officials.
- The original VAT collection target for FY26 was BDT 1.86tn (USD 15.25bn), but actual collection reached BDT 1.55tn (USD 12.7bn). To achieve the FY27 target of BDT 2.23tn (USD 18.28bn), the VAT wing will have to raise collections by approximately 44pc over last year's actual receipts. This means an additional BDT 680bn (USD 5.57bn) must be mobilized during the current fiscal year.
- In the Finance Bill 2027, the government has made VAT payment and VAT return submission simpler by extending payment and submission schedules to three months from every month. Field officials say because the revised payment schedule would effectively leave only three revenue-generating quarters within the fiscal year, the burden would be even heavier.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/vat-schedule-change-may-widen-revenue-gap

Imports of foodgrain register 2nd-highest volume in FY26
July 15, 2026

- Bangladesh recorded its second-highest volume of foodgrains import in fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 due to surge in the wheat purchases by both the government and private sectors due to favorable prices in the global market.
- According to the Ministry of Food, the country imported 8.6mn tons of foodgrains, including rice and wheat, during the last fiscal year (FY). Bangladesh's highest volume of foodgrain imports was recorded at 9.7mn tons in FY 2017-18 as devastating flash floods damaged crops across large parts of the country, forcing the country to import a record 3.9mn tons of rice.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/imports-of-foodgrain-register-2nd-highest-volume-in-fy26

Capital Market
6 merchant banks face license cancellation over capital deficiency, inactivity
July 15, 2026

- In a major regulatory crackdown, the stock market watchdog has initiated the process of cancelling the licenses of six more merchant banks over allegations of prolonged inactivity and capital deficiency.
- The move was triggered by preliminary findings that some of the institutions had long failed to meet minimum capital requirements, while the others faced accusations of persistent regulatory non-compliance and prolonged operational inactivity.
- The merchant banks facing license cancellation are FAS Capital Management, Imperial Capital, NDB Capital, Riverstone Capital, HAL Capital and Roots Investment.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/6-merchant-banks-face-licence-cancellation-over-capital-deficiency-inactivity

BSEC approves intraday trading
July 15, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the introduction of intraday trading, in a move aimed at modernizing the capital market and improving trading efficiency.
- Intraday trading allows investors to buy and sell stocks within the same day, aiming to capitalize on short-term price movements and market volatility.
- The commission approved the necessary arrangements to introduce the system, subject to completing required preparations before launch, it said. Stock brokers had recently demanded the facility, prompting the BSEC chairman to announce at an event that it could initially be introduced for a select group of fundamentally strong stocks.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-approves-intraday-trading-4223921

Margin loans open to all, BDT 0.5mn (USD 4,098.36) minimum investment to scrap
July 15, 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved draft amendments to the Margin Rules, 2025, relaxing several restrictive provisions introduced last November to improve market liquidity and make margin lending more accessible. The proposed amendments, approved on 14 July, will be published in newspapers and on the commission's website for public opinion before being finalized.
- The commission will remove restrictions on extending margin loans to students, homemakers and retired persons. The amendment will allow lenders to provide margin financing to all

investors based on their relationship with clients and internal risk assessment.

- The amendment will make all 'A' and 'B' category stocks eligible for margin loans by scrapping the existing requirement that 'B' category companies must pay at least a 5pc dividend. Securities listed on the SME, ATB and OTC platforms will remain ineligible.
- The regulator will abolish the requirement for investors to maintain an average investment of BDT 0.5mn (USD 4,098.36) in listed shares over the previous year to qualify for margin loans. Instead, investors must maintain a minimum equity of BDT 0.3mn (USD 2,459.02).
- Under the current rules, lenders must issue a margin call when a portfolio's value falls below 75pc and execute a forced sale when it drops below 50pc. The amendment lowers the margin call threshold to 70pc, while the forced-sale threshold remains unchanged.
- The proposed amendments retain the restriction on margin lending for stocks with a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio above 30 but change how the ratio is calculated. Instead of using the cumulative earnings per share of the latest four quarters, the P/E ratio will now be based on annual audited financial statements.
- The commission will also remove the rule linking margin financing to the market's overall P/E ratio. Currently, if the main board's market P/E exceeds 20, lenders cannot provide financing above a 1:0.5 equity-to-loan ratio. Under the amendment, lenders will be able to extend financing of up to a 1:1 ratio based on mutual agreement with clients, regardless of the market P/E.
- The commission also plans to raise the ceiling on margin lending by financiers from three times their core capital or net worth to five times their net worth, allowing brokers to extend significantly larger margin portfolios.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/margin-loans-open-all-tk5-lakh-minimum-investment-scrap-1488491

Corporate

ACI to invest BDT 7.0bn (USD 57.38mn) in Shwapno
July 15, 2026

- Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) PLC has decided to invest BDT 7.0bn (USD 57.38mn) in its subsidiary, ACI Logistics Limited, which operates under the retail brand Shwapno.
- As part of the investment, ACI will subscribe to 7.0mn convertible preference shares of ACI Logistics, each with a face value of BDT 1,000 (USD 8.20). The investment is expected to be completed by 15 October of the current year.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-invest-tk700cr-shwapno-1488506

Bangladesh adds four more LEED-certified RMG factories
July 15, 2026

- Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) industry has added four more Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified factories, further strengthening the country's position as the global leader in green garment manufacturing.
- The newly certified factories are Canvas Garments Pvt. Ltd., Matrix Sweaters Ltd., Karim Textiles Limited, and Karim Tex Limited.
- With these latest additions, Bangladesh now has 290 LEED-certified RMG factories, including 125 Platinum-rated and 145 Gold-rated facilities. The country also accounts for 53 of the world's top 100 highest-scoring LEED-certified factories, underscoring its leadership in sustainable apparel manufacturing.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-adds-4-more-leed-certified-rmg-factories

BB grants exemption to Shinepukur Ceramics to open LCs with 100pc margin until Dec 2027
July 15, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has exempted Shinepukur Ceramics Limited from a specific restrictive provision allowing the company to open Letters of Credit (LC) with a 100pc margin through Sonali Bank PLC to import essential raw materials.
- The central bank noted that the special regulatory waiver has been granted strictly on humanitarian and economic grounds to ensure the continuity of the factory's industrial production and to protect the employment of its massive workforce.
- However, the apex bank attached strict conditions to safeguard the state-owned lender's funds: Designated account tracking with all income deposited into one account, Proportionate debt clearance by the Somali Bank from that one account, Zero state liability for central bank or Ministry of Finance against this special facility and No future bailouts by Bangladesh Bank under this facility.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-grants-exemption-to-shinepukur-ceramics-to-open-lcs-with-100pc-margin-until-dec-2027

Telecom

No reprieve for Summit over BDT 30mn (USD 0.25mn) bandwidth pricing fine
July 15, 2026

- The telecom regulator has upheld a BDT 3 crore administrative fine on Summit Communications Ltd, the country's largest telecom infrastructure operator, after concluding it engaged in discriminatory bandwidth pricing.
- At a recent meeting, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to issue a formal notice instructing Summit to deposit the penalty with the regulator's Finance, Accounts and Revenue Division within 10 working days.
- An investigation found that Summit charged its own International Internet Gateway (IIG) business an average of BDT 8 (USD 0.066) per Mbps for bandwidth, while charging other IIG operators an average of BDT 196.65 (USD 1.61) per Mbps, a gap officials described as "clearly discriminatory".

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-reprieve-summit-over-tk-3cr-bandwidth-pricing-fine-4223926

Trade and Commerce

EV investments spark on budget perks

July 15, 2026

- Bangladesh's electric vehicle (EV) industry is poised to enter a new growth phase, with around BDT 40bn (USD 327.87mn) in private investments announced over the past few years expected to gather pace following incentives unveiled in the FY2026-27 budget.
- From automotive manufacturers and industrial conglomerates to energy companies and filling station operators, private investors are positioning themselves for what they believe could become Bangladesh's next major manufacturing and infrastructure industry.
- Industry leaders, however, say the sector's biggest challenge has shifted to ensuring reliable electricity, faster grid connections, and commercially viable charging stations.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ev-investments-spark-budget-perks-1487731

International

Oil extends gains after latest US strikes, tech suffers more losses

July 15, 2026

- Oil prices jumped and stocks fell again Tuesday after fresh US strikes against Iran that marked a new escalation in hostilities that has fuelled fears over their already fragile truce and the chances of another spike in inflation.
- Tech firms were once again in the crosshairs, with South Korea's Kospi extending a painful selloff as chip titan SK hynix continued to be routed amid growing fears about the AI boom.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/583302

US pays back USD 81bn in tariffs ruled illegal by Supreme Court

July 15, 2026

- The US government has already paid back tens of billions of dollars in tariffs it collected before the Supreme Court ruled them illegal, according to budget figures released Monday. According to the budget data, the US has paid out USD 81bn in tariff refunds so far this fiscal year, which started in October 2025, compared to just USD 5bn during the same stretch last year.
- Tariffs -taxes on imported goods - have been a key part of President Donald Trump's game economic plan since he took office again last year. But in February, the Supreme Court shut down a big chunk of the extra tariffs Trump ordered, forcing the government to return money to the companies that had paid them.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-pays-back-81b-tariffs-ruled-illegal-supreme-court-4223896

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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