

## Oil prices settle at 3-week low

REUTERS, New York

Oil prices eased on Friday and settled at a three-week low as traders worried about negative economic news from the US and China and signs of growing supply.

Losses were limited by optimism US trade deals could boost global economic growth and oil demand in the future.

Brent crude futures fell 74 cents, or 1.1 percent, to settle at \$68.44, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 87 cents, or 1.3 percent, to settle at \$65.16.

Those were the lowest settlement levels for Brent since July 4 and WTI since June 30.

For the week, Brent was down about 1 percent with WTI down about 3 percent.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will meet US President Donald Trump on Sunday in Scotland. European Union officials and diplomats said they expected to reach a framework trade deal this weekend.

The euro zone economy has remained resilient to the pervasive uncertainty caused by a global trade war, a slew of data showed on Friday, even as European Central Bank policymakers appeared to temper market bets on no more rate cuts.

In the US, new orders for US manufactured capital goods unexpectedly fell in June while shipments of those products increased moderately, suggesting business spending on equipment slowed considerably in the second quarter.

Trump said he had a good meeting with Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and got the impression that the head of the U.S. central bank might be ready to lower interest rates.

Lower interest rates reduce consumer borrowing costs and can boost economic growth and demand for oil.

In China, the world's second-biggest economy, fiscal revenue dipped 0.3 percent in the first six months from a year earlier, the finance ministry said, maintaining the rate of decline seen between January and May.

## BRAC Bank surpasses \$1b in market capitalisation



### STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC has reached a significant milestone by surpassing \$1 billion in market capitalisation, becoming the only bank in Bangladesh to achieve this landmark in the capital market.

This accomplishment underscores the enduring confidence of both local and international investors in the bank's performance and long-term growth prospects, according to a press release.

The bank's sustained growth is driven by robust governance, consistent financial performance, and the highest credit ratings in the country. BRAC Bank is widely regarded as a benchmark for corporate governance and values-based banking, consistently leading the industry across key financial indicators.

This brought BRAC Bank's market capitalisation to Tk 13,691 crore on July 24, which was the last trading day of the previous week, as the lender has 199 crore listed shares.

Commenting on the milestone, Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO (current charge) of the bank, stated: "We are extremely proud to become the first and only bank in Bangladesh to cross USD 1 billion in market capitalisation. This milestone is a testament to the steadfast trust of our shareholders and customers."

"It reflects our unwavering commitment to strong governance, prudent financial management, and long-term value creation. We remain dedicated to delivering sustainable growth and enhancing shareholder value," he added.

A prominent blue-chip stock, BRAC Bank has experienced a sustained upward trend on both the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges in recent weeks. As of July 24, 2025, its closing share price stood at Tk 68.80, well above its face value of Tk 10.

Of the private bank's listed shares, 46.17 percent are held by the bank's sponsors and directors, while 33.79 percent are owned by foreign investors — the highest level of international shareholding among all banks in Bangladesh. The remaining 13.28 percent and 6.76 percent are held by local institutions and the general public, respectively.

With an authorised capital of Tk 5,000 crore and a paid-up capital of Tk 1,991 crore, BRAC Bank has demonstrated strong performance across all major financial metrics like earnings per share, return on equity, return on assets, non-performing loans, and profit after tax.

## Prime Bank, SUST host seminar on financial inclusion, youth empowerment



M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director and head of consumer and SME banking division of Prime Bank PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", jointly organised by the bank and the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) Career Club, on the university campus yesterday.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) Career Club, organised a seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", on the university campus yesterday.

The event aimed to promote financial literacy and inspire greater youth engagement in the banking sector.

M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director and head of consumer and SME banking division of the bank, attended the seminar as the keynote speaker, according to a press release.

In his keynote address, Choudhury highlighted the importance of students going beyond academic achievements by enhancing their digital literacy, language proficiency, communication, and presentation skills.

"The core purpose of such sessions is to offer proper guidance in preparing students for the future. Developing public speaking skills and the ability to articulate thoughts clearly will help students grow more confident and capable," he remarked.

## IFIC Bank's deposits cross Tk 51,000cr

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC has surpassed a total deposit volume of Tk 51,000 crore, according to a press release issued by the bank.

Md Mehmmad Husain, chairman of the bank, made the announcement during the bank's "Half-Yearly Business Conference 2025", held yesterday at IFIC Tower in the capital's Purana Paltan.

In his address, Husain attributed the renewed confidence of customers to the establishment of sound governance practices within the bank. "The steady growth of IFIC Bank is a direct result of transparent and accountable operations carried out by our senior leadership and officials at all levels," he said.



Md Mehmmad Husain, chairman of IFIC Bank PLC, addresses the bank's "Half-Yearly Business Conference 2025", at IFIC Tower in the capital's Purana Paltan yesterday.

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

## Delta Life Insurance declares 30% cash dividend

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

Delta Life Insurance Company Limited has declared a 30 percent cash dividend for the financial year 2024.

The announcement was made during the life insurer's 39th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, according to a press release.

Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, chairman of the life insurer, presided over the AGM as the chief guest. In his address, Mazumder stated, "We are extremely proud that Delta Life has been operating with integrity and earning the trust of the people, consistently delivering a 30 percent dividend over the past few years."

He further added, "In an insurance company, claim settlement is of paramount importance, where the management expects 100 percent efficiency. In this respect, Delta Life Insurance has earned recognition in society, which has contributed to its strong standing today."

"We extend our gratitude to every member of our management team who, through their respective roles, worked with honesty and dedication to make this achievement possible. Attaining 10 percent growth this year, despite the challenging economic climate in Bangladesh, is truly commendable."

PHOTO: DELTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Hafiz Ahmed Mazumder, chairman of Delta Life Insurance Company Limited, presides over the life insurer's 39th annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday. At the meeting, a 30 percent cash dividend was declared for 2024.

## EXIM Bank organises half-yearly managers' conference

### STAR BUSINESS DESK

EXIM Bank PLC organised its "Half Yearly Managers Conference 2025" at the bank's head office in the capital yesterday.

Md Nazrul Islam Swapan, chairman of the bank, attended the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his address, Swapan advised all branch managers to work collectively to achieve the desired outcomes by addressing the current challenges facing the banking sector.

Abdul Aziz Zummah, managing director (current charge) of the bank, presided over the conference. He discussed the bank's overall current activities and outlined a clear action plan to attain the targeted goals.

Md Zoshim Uddin Bhuiyan, Maksuda Khanam, and Md Moidul Islam, deputy managing directors of the bank, were also present, along with all regional managers, branch managers, second officers, GB in charges, investment in charges, foreign trade in charges, and divisional heads of the head office.



Md Nazrul Islam Swapan, chairman of EXIM Bank PLC, addresses the bank's "Half-Yearly Managers Conference 2025" at its head office in the capital yesterday.

## South Korea left in limbo as US delays trade meeting

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD

A high-level trade meeting between South Korea and the US was abruptly called off Thursday, just one day before it was set to take place in Washington, due to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's "urgent schedule."

The delay has sparked concerns in Seoul as next week's tariff deadline approaches with insufficient time for a potential breakthrough.

South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Koo Yoon-cheol was set to depart for Washington when the US notified Seoul of the last-minute decision. Koo canceled the trip after receiving the notice while waiting at Incheon International Airport, just an hour before his scheduled flight.

The now-delayed "2+2" dialogue was to take place between Koo and Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo from Korea, as well as Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer from the US. It would have marked the first such meeting under President Lee Jae Myung's new Cabinet.

The high-stakes talks were seen in Seoul as a critical opportunity to make a breakthrough in trade talks before the Aug. 1 deadline, when a 25 percent "reciprocal tariff" will be imposed on all Korean goods unless a new deal is reached.

**The delay has sparked concerns in Seoul as next week's tariff deadline approaches with insufficient time for a potential breakthrough**

"Washington has apologized multiple times for postponing the meeting and proposed rescheduling the meeting between Bessent and Koo as soon as possible," Seoul's Finance Ministry said.

While the US did not clarify the nature of Bessent's scheduling conflict, reports say he may accompany US President Donald Trump's trip to Scotland on July 25-29.

This means it could be virtually impossible to reschedule the "2+2" meeting before the tariff deadline, further dimming hopes of a negotiated resolution in time.

Despite the disruption, Yeo and Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan, who are already in Washington, will continue consultations with their US counterparts, including Greer, Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum, according to the Industry Ministry.

South Korea has been pushing for reduced tariff rates or exemptions through a comprehensive deal covering both tariffs and broader economic cooperation. Korean exports currently face a 10 percent base tariff with additional levies imposed on key products, such as 25 percent tariffs on automobiles and auto parts, and 50 percent on steel and aluminum. Without a meaningful advancement in negotiations, this baseline tariff is scheduled to increase to 25 percent on Aug. 1, intensifying economic strain on the export-dependent country.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of The Divisional Forest Officer  
Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali

### Invitation for Tenders

1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.			
2 Agency	Bangladesh Forest Department.			
3 Procuring Entity Name	Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
4 Invitation for	Supply of service worker through outsourcing.			
5 Invitation Ref No.	I/PSN-2 NOA/Rev/2025-2026 Date:27/07/2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
6 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
7 Budget and Source of Funds	GOB			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
8 Tender Package No.	I/PSN-2 NOA/Rev/2025-2026 Date:27/07/2025			
9 Tender Package Name	Supply of service worker through outsourcing			
10 Tender Publication Date	27/07/2025			
11 Tender Last Selling Date	17/08/2025 up to 5.00 PM			
12 Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	18/08/2025, 09.00 AM to 1.00 PM			
13 Tender Opening Date and Time	18/08/2025, 2.00 PM			
14 Name & Address of the office (s)	Noakhali Sadar Range, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
Selling Tender Document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
Opening Tender Document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15 Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tenderers will be the firms having minimum 3(Three) years experience of service worker supply through outsourcing.</li> <li>Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law.</li> <li>Tenderers will be the firm having licence from Department of Inspection for factories and establishments.</li> <li>Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay Taxes &amp; VAT under the Provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh.</li> <li>Others Eligibility are mentioned in Tender Document.</li> </ul>			
16 Brief Description of Services	Supply of service worker for the Position of Despatch Rider-01 person, Boatman-17 person, Mali-09 person & Laskar/Khalasi-02 person.			
17 Price of Tender Document	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) Taka only. (Non Refundable)			
Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks/Months
Single	Outsourcing service workers	Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.	Tk. 2,40,000/- (Two Lac Forty Thousand) Only	12 Months (Renewable)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Abu Yousuf			
19 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Divisional Forest Officer			
20 Address of Official Inviting Tender	Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.			
21 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 880-02-334491106, E-mail: cfndk@gmail.com			
22 Work Order is subject to be issued upon releasing of fund.				

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

(Abu Yousuf)

ID No: 13211

Divisional Forest Officer

Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali.

GD-1654