BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

August 17, 2026

Bank Asia SECURITIES LIMITED

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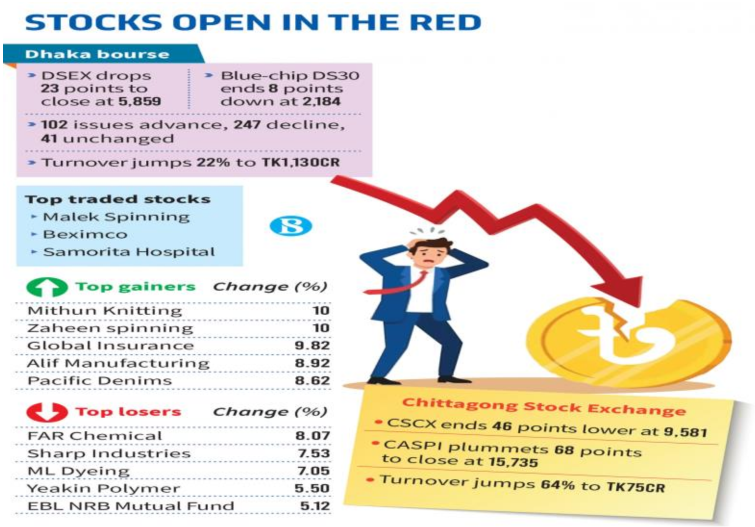
Key News

Stock Market & Company

Gas crisis, margin rule uncertainty weigh on bourse

The Business Standard, Aug 16, 2026



- The country's premier bourse started the week on a dismal note today (16 August), with the benchmark index extending its losing streak for a third consecutive session amid growing concerns over the gas crisis and possible changes to margin rules.
- Market insiders said concerns over the impact of gas shortages on industrial production, coupled with uncertainty surrounding regulatory changes, prompted investors to offload shares, pushing most traded securities into negative territory.
- The benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell 23 points, or 0.39%, to close at 5,859. The blue-chip DS30 index also declined 8 points to 2,184.
- Market breadth remained heavily skewed towards losers, with 247 issues declining against 102 gainers, while 41 remained unchanged.
- Despite the decline in share prices, trading activity increased significantly. Turnover rose 22% to Tk1,130 crore, suggesting that the higher transaction volume was largely driven by selling pressure.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gas-crisis-margin-rule-uncertainty-weigh-bourse-1516851

Audit reveals Tk287cr provision shortfall, zero FDR coverage at Premier Leasing

The Business Standard, Aug 16, 2026

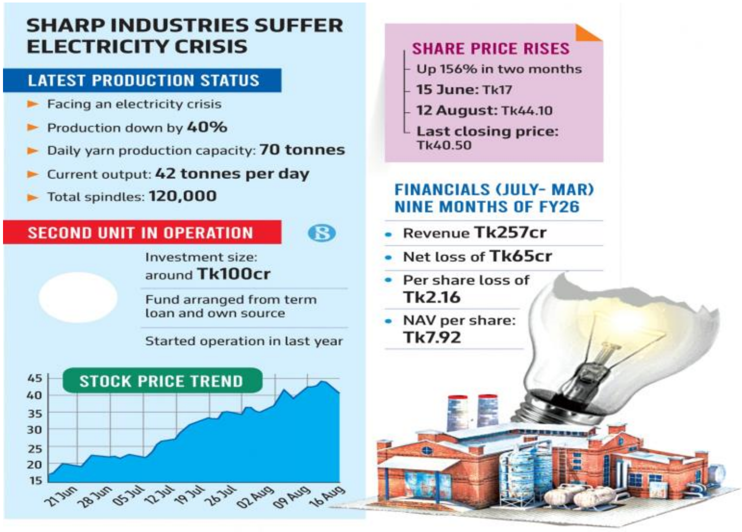
- Premier Leasing & Finance Limited, a publicly listed non-bank financial institution (NBFI), is facing severe non-compliance issues and significant asset-quality risks after its auditor revealed a provision shortfall of Tk287 crore, along with total non-provisioning against its fixed deposit receipts (FDRs).
- The auditor's report on the financial statements for 2025 highlighted widespread shortfalls in the required reserves set by Bangladesh Bank across the company's asset categories, which was published on the stock exchanges website today (16 August).

- In July, the central bank gave Premier Leasing and Finance, including other three NBFIs, three months to regain financial viability.
- If the institutions fail to meet the conditions, they will also be brought fully under the resolution framework, as per decision.
- According to its auditor, Premier Leasing holds Tk1,296 crore loans, of which classified (non-performing) loans account for Tk860 crore and unclassified loans stand at Tk436 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/audit-reveals-tk287cr-provision-shortfall-zero-fdr-coverage-premier-leasing-1516841

Sharp Industries maintains 60% yarn production capacity amid power constraints

The Business Standard, Aug 16, 2026



- Despite the ongoing gas and electricity supply challenges affecting industrial production across the country, listed textile company Sharp Industries PLC continues to maintain operations and produce yarn, utilising around 60% of its daily production capacity.
- The company is making continued efforts to sustain production amid the prevailing energy constraints, demonstrating resilience and operational continuity in a challenging business environment.
- Sharp Industries has a yarn production capacity of around 70 tonnes a day, while its current output stands at approximately 42 tonnes. The company operates around 120,000 spindles across its two manufacturing units.
- Company officials said production could increase to around 98% of capacity if electricity supply becomes stable, indicating significant scope for higher output as power availability improves.
- The company receives electricity from the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and also operates a 6MW solar power system. On average, around 3MW of electricity generated by the solar system is also supplied to the national grid, while the renewable power helps the company offset part of its electricity costs.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sharp-industries-maintains-60-yarn-production-capacity-amid-power-constraints-1516861

BRAC Bank reports stellar performance in H1 2026

The Business Standard, Aug 16, 2026

- BRAC Bank delivered a strong set of results across profitability, operating efficiency and balance sheet expansion in the first half of 2026, underpinned by diversified businesses, good governance and customer-focused strategy.
- BRAC bank reported a 57 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated profit to Tk 14.23 billion for the six months ended June this year.
- Despite a challenging macroeconomic and industry environment, the bank continued to outperform the market during the period, delivering a robust growth in financial statement compared to the previous year, said a press release.
- It said customer deposits increased 25 per cent year-on-year, while loans and advances grew 18 per cent, both are ahead of industry averages.

- The bank also strengthened operational efficiency, reducing its cost-to-income ratio to 42 per cent in the six months to June, compared with 48 per cent in the first half of 2025, reflecting sustained focus on productivity, cost discipline and digital transformations.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/brac-bank-reports-stellar-performance-in-h1-2026

Haji Ahmad Brothers Securities penalised over client fund shortfall

The Financial Express, Aug 17, 2026

- The securities regulator has fined Haji Ahmad Brothers Securities Tk 1 million for breaching securities rules by creating deficits in the clients' funds.
- The penalty was imposed after completion of hearings in May this year, based on investigation reports submitted by the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), according to an order issued by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on August 10.
- BSEC Executive Director and spokesperson Md Abul Kalam told the FE that a deficit in consolidated customers' account (CCA) is considered a serious regulatory violation.
- "The regulatory action has been taken to protect investors, strengthen market discipline and penalise offenders involved in irregularities," he said.
- Although the violations date back to an earlier period, Mr Kalam said the newly-formed commission had strengthened its oversight of brokerage houses to ensure financial transparency and investor protection.

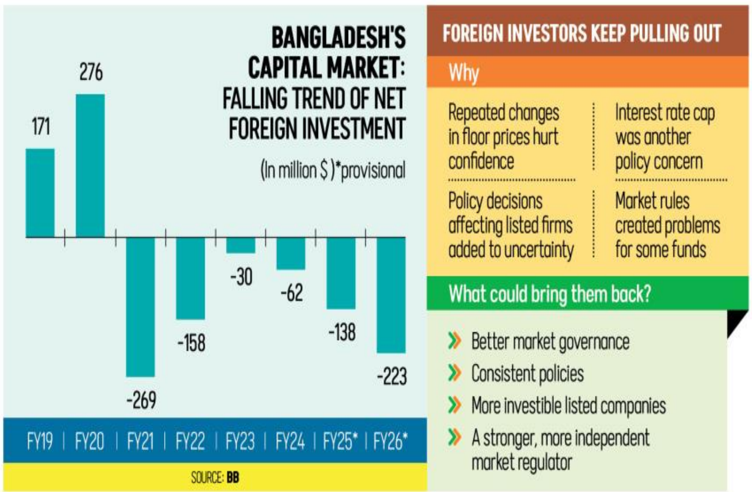
https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/haji-ahmad-brothers-securities-penalised-over-client-fund-shortfall

Economy & Industry

Foreign investment in stocks keeps falling

The Daily Star, Aug 17, 2026

- Foreign investors continue to pull out of the local stock market due to a mix of nearly half a dozen reasons, including policy and regulatory uncertainty, weak corporate earnings and banking-sector problems, currency risks and overall negative sentiment.
- In the last fiscal year 2025-26, foreign investors withdrew a net $223 million from the stock market. The outflow in FY26 was higher than the $138 million recorded a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data.
- Net foreign portfolio investment has been in negative territory since FY21, meaning investors have sold more shares and other securities than they have bought.



- Market insiders say the experience of past policy interventions, particularly the repeated use of floor prices, has left foreign investors wary of the market.
- A floor price sets a minimum level at which a share can be traded, restricting normal price movements.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-investment-stocks-keeps-falling-4249376

Govt launches Tk 400cr fund to boost startup investment

The Daily Star, Aug 17, 2026

- The government yesterday launched a fund with an initial size of Tk 400 crore to boost investment in the country's startup ecosystem, attract local and international capital, and strengthen the venture capital industry.
- Startup Bangladesh Limited (SBL), the government's venture capital and fund management institution under the ICT Division, announced the launch of the initiative, titled "Fund of Funds," at an event at ICT Tower in Dhaka.
- Over the past decade, Bangladeshi startups have attracted around $1.2 billion in investment, but local investors accounted for only about 7 percent of the total, according to a Startup Bangladesh statement.
- The Fund of Funds initiative will seek to address this gap by strengthening local institutional capital, attracting foreign investment, developing the venture capital industry and building a sustainable startup financing structure, it said.
- Over the past decade, Bangladeshi startups have attracted around $1.2 billion in investment, but local investors accounted for only about 7 percent of the total.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-launches-tk-400cr-fund-boost-startup-investment-4249356

International

India's goods trade deficit hits 6-month high as imports rise

The Daily Star, Aug 16, 2026

- India's merchandise trade deficit widened more than expected to a six-month high of $31.98 billion in July, as the Middle East war drove up the country's oil import bill and global freight rates.
- The data underscores the growing pressure on India's external balance, as a wider trade gap weighs on the rupee and capital inflows.
- A Reuters poll of economists expected the merchandise trade deficit in July at $30.20 billion. It stood at $30.43 billion in June.
- Imports rose to $76.22 billion against $70.84 billion in June, driven by a rise in crude oil prices and surging imports of electronics goods and gold, data released by the trade ministry showed.
- Imports of electronics goods, including chips, rose more than 44 percent year-on-year in July to $14.37 billion, and gold imports climbed nearly 5 percent to $4.16 billion.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/indias-goods-trade-deficit-hits-6-month-high-imports-rise-4248536

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About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

BASL Research Team

Mr. Shariful Alam Chowdhury Head of Research & Investments	tushar@basl-bd.com
Mr. Shohidul Islam Research Analyst	shohidul@basl-bd.com
Mr. Kawser Mohammad Emon Research Associate	emon@basl-bd.com
Supervised by: Mr. Sumon Das, Chief Executive Officer	

BASL Network

Head Office
Hadi Mansion (2nd Floor)
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-02-9515826-28
E-mail: info@basl-bd.com

Dhanmondi Branch
Meher Plaza (1st Floor),
House # 13/A, Road # 05
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1207
Phone: +8802-44611923-24

Mirpur Branch
Nishi Plaza, plot # 01,
Avenue-04, Section-06, Block-C
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216
Phone: +8802-58055449, 48032449

Uttara Branch
House # 79/A, (4th Floor),
Road # 07, Sector # 04
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230
Phone: +88-02-48958389,48958371

Banani Branch
Nur Empori, Plot # 77 (1st Floor), Road No # 11, Banani,
Dhaka-1213
Phone: +88028836155, 8836849

Nikunja Branch
DSE Tower, Level 10, Room# 200, Nikunja, Dhaka-1229
Phone: +8809666702070

Chattogram Branch
Bank Asia Bhaban (3rd Floor)
39, Agrabad Commercial Area
Chattogram-4001
Tel : +8801730338091

Khulna Branch
28, Sir Iqbal Road (1st Floor)
Khulna
Phone: +88-041-731208-9

Bogura Digital Booth
Jamil Shopping Center (3rd Floor), 288/325 Rangpur Road,
Bogura City Corporation, Bogura Sadar, Bogura.

Rajshahi Digital Booth
Chamber Bhabon(2nd Floor), Station Road , Alokar Moor,
Rajshahi-6100.

For International Trade & Sales, please call at +8801993111666, +880 02 9515826, Ext: 101 at Business hour. For further query, write to us at research@basl-bd.com.