BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

Bank Asia SECURITIES LIMITED

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Key News

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UCB to exit National Housing by offloading entire stake
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Stock Market & Company

Margin rule fog deepens sell-off, stocks slide for 4th day

The Business Standard, Aug 18, 2026

- The broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed a dramatic reversal today (18 August), as early-session euphoria over the finalisation of new margin lending rules quickly faded, giving way to a massive wave of profit-taking.
- The benchmark DSEX, which had risen more than 50 points in the first half of the day, plunged 100 points from its intraday peak to close at 5,773, down 40 points from the previous session.
- This volatile performance extended the market's losing streak to a fifth consecutive session, with the DSEX shedding a cumulative 130 points over the period. The blue-chip DS30 index also mirrored the downturn, slipping 11 points to settle at 2,164.
- The broad-based sell-off resulted in an erosion of Tk5,800 crore from the bourse's market capitalisation in a single day, although trading activity remained relatively strong, with turnover reaching Tk998 crore.
- The bearish trend was mirrored at the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), where the broad CASPI index plummeted by 110 points to finish at 15,513. Turnover at the port city bourse also saw a 30% decline, settling at Tk73 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-erases-100-point-gain-margin-gazette-triggers-sell-news-reaction-1518751

CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund skips dividend despite Tk6.77cr profit in FY26

The Business Standard, Aug 18, 2026

- CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund 01, a closed-end mutual fund, reported a net profit of Tk6.77 crore for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2026 but decided not to declare any dividend for the year.
- The decision was finalised during a trustee board meeting held yesterday, according to a regulatory filing with the stock exchange.
- The fund reported an earnings per unit (EPU) of Tk1.35 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- According to the audited financial statements, the fund's total Net Asset Value (NAV) stood at Tk55 crore on a cost-price basis and Tk45.19 crore on a market-price basis as of 30 June 2026. Consequently, the NAV per unit at cost price was Tk10.97, while the NAV at market price stood at Tk9.01, against the face value of Tk10 per unit.
- The fund has set 9 September as the record date for its annual closing.
- The decision to skip the dividend comes at a time when the fund is approaching a structural transition. Earlier, the trustee called a Special General Meeting (SGM) of its unitholders to determine the future of the scheme.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/capm-bdbl-mutual-fund-skips-dividend-despite-tk677cr-profit-fy26-1518771

UCB to exit National Housing by offloading entire stake

The Business Standard, Aug 18, 2026

- United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB), a corporate sponsor of National Housing Finance PLC, has announced its decision to exit the non-bank financial institution by offloading its entire remaining holding of 5.63 lakh shares.
- In a disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (18 August), UCB expressed its intention to sell the shares at prevailing market prices through the public market within the next 30 working days. Following the announcement, National Housing shares inched up by 0.68% to close at Tk29.40.
- This complete exit comes after a major divestment in August 2025, when UCB sold 56.35 lakh shares of National Housing through the DSE.
- Incorporated in 1998 and listed on the stock exchanges in 2009, National Housing's shareholding structure as of July shows sponsors and directors jointly holding a 45.57% stake. The government owns 9.34%, institutional investors hold 15.07%, and general investors account for the remaining 30.02%.
- Meanwhile, National Housing posted a slight improvement in its earnings for the first half of 2026. According to its latest financial report, the company's earnings per share (EPS) for the April-June 2026 quarter stood at Tk0.19, matching the restated EPS of Tk0.19 for the same period in 2025. For the January-June 2026 period, EPS rose to Tk0.43 from Tk0.41 in H1 2025.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-exit-national-housing-offloading-entire-stake-1518756

Sena Insurance shares soar 161% despite no undisclosed PSI

The Business Standard, Aug 18, 2026

- Shares of listed general insurer Sena Insurance PLC have surged nearly 161% in just four and a half months, despite the company saying it has no undisclosed price-sensitive information (PSI) behind the unusual rise.
- In response to a query from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) regarding the unusual increase in its share price and trading volume, the company yesterday said that it had no undisclosed price-sensitive information that could explain the recent movement.
- According to DSE data, Sena Insurance shares closed at Tk60 on 24 March. The price rose to Tk156.50 at the close of trading yesterday, representing a gain of Tk96.50, or around 161%, over the period.
- Meanwhile, the company's revenue increased in the first half of 2026, although its net profit declined slightly year-on-year.
- Sena Insurance posted revenue of Tk18.82 crore during January-June 2026, compared with Tk17.32 crore in the same period a year earlier. This represents an increase of Tk1.50 crore, or around 8.7%.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sena-insurance-shares-soar-161-despite-no-undisclosed-psi-1518746

Banglalink seeks regulator's nod for Starlink rollout

The Financial Express, Aug 19, 2026

- Banglalink has sought regulatory approval to commercially launch Starlink's direct-to-cell (D2C) service in Bangladesh after successfully completing a proof of concept (PoC) in Cox's Bazar, according to a letter submitted to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).l
- The operator plans to initially offer SMS and light data services through Starlink satellites, particularly in remote and underserved areas beyond the reach of its terrestrial network.
- Banglalink Chief Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Officer Taimur Rahman said D2C could complement existing mobile networks in areas where conventional infrastructure is difficult to build.
- "Starlink's direct-to-cell technology has the potential to strengthen connectivity for communities in remote and hard-to-reach areas, where traditional network infrastructure can be challenging to deploy," he said.

- "Following the successful test, we look forward to the necessary regulatory approvals and the commercial launch of this innovative technology, helping connect more communities across Bangladesh."

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/banglalink-seeks-regulators-nod-for-starlink-rollout

Economy & Industry

Indian businesses express investment interests in consumer goods

The Business Standard, Aug 19, 2026

- The visiting Indian business delegation has expressed interest in investing in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector, proposing the establishment of a state-of-the-art integrated manufacturing plant near Dhaka to produce items such as soaps, home care insecticides, and fragrances.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) during a meeting with Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday (18 August) called for harmonising tariff structures for energy-efficient technologies in industries.
- The CII representatives stated that adopting their steam-related technologies could save 10% to 35% of gas in the textile, readymade garment, and food processing industries – though tariff disparities currently hinder their adoption, said a press release.
- During the meeting, Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Muktadir emphasised transforming geographical proximity into economic advantages to enhance trade, investment, and industrial cooperation between Bangladesh and India.
- The CII also highlighted the need for an effective regulatory framework to control the quality of unregistered products.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/indian-businesses-express-investment-interests-consumer-goods-1518851

Economy shows fragile gains

The Daily Star, Aug 19, 2026

- When the BNP government took office in February, several key economic indicators were flashing red.
- Economic growth was weak, inflation had remained high for years, the banking sector was badly damaged, and private investment was at a historic low.
- The newly elected government could have responded to political pressure by loosening monetary and fiscal policy, increasing public spending and chasing a quick recovery. But that could have blown up macroeconomic stability and made the problems it inherited worse.
- Instead, the government accepted that the economy needed time to adjust. It focused on containing the deterioration and laying the foundations for recovery.
- Six months into its term, the economy is showing some signs of recovery, according to economists and business leaders. But external shocks, such as the war in the Middle East and unfavourable weather affecting agriculture, threaten to undo those gains.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economy-shows-fragile-gains-4251186

International

Oil market starts pricing in a prolonged Hormuz crisis

The Daily Star, Aug 19, 2026

- The oil market is increasingly behaving as though disruptions to Middle East energy supplies are not a temporary shock but a new reality.
- Nearly six months after war erupted between the US and Iran, hopes for a diplomatic breakthrough have faded.
- An interim ceasefire agreed on June 17 has effectively collapsed, the 60-day negotiating period has expired, and neither Washington nor Tehran appears willing to compromise over the future of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Instead, both sides are digging in.
- Iran warned on Monday it would escalate tensions unless Washington fully implemented the interim peace deal within weeks. A senior Iranian official told Reuters that, if diplomacy failed, Tehran would launch a “timely and precise” attack to break the US naval blockade.
- US President Donald Trump said on July 7 that the pact was “over.” He has since insisted Washington was moving closer to defeating Iran.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-market-starts-pricing-prolonged-hormuz-crisis-4251136

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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).

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