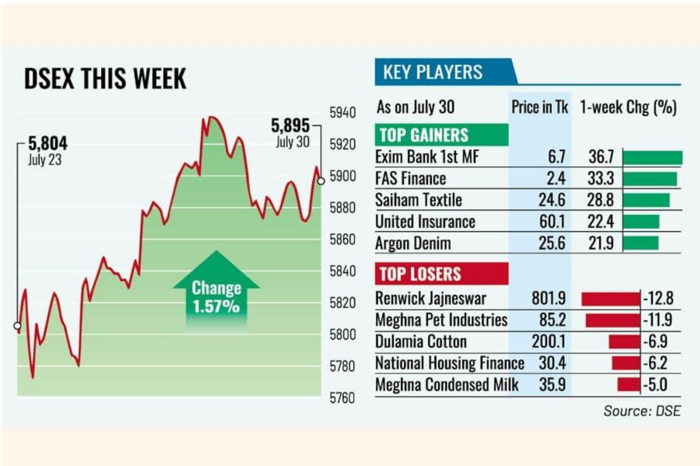
Key News

Stock Market & Company

Stocks rebound as investors bet on strong corporate earnings

The Financial Express, Aug 02, 2026



- Stocks rebounded sharply this week, with the benchmark index recovering most of the previous week's losses as bargain hunters returned to the market amid growing optimism over corporate earnings.
- Market operators said investor sentiment improved after retaliatory actions in the Middle East temporarily subsided, easing fears of a further escalation in the conflict.
- Expectations of strong quarterly earnings, particularly from banks and several blue-chip companies, also prompted investors to rebuild positions, triggering broad-based buying across the market.
- Meanwhile, most listed banks posted double-digit year-on-year profit growth in the first half of 2026, buoyed by higher investment income as well as increased earnings from fees and commissions.
- Some of the multinational companies also posted higher profit despite prolonged inflation and rising energy costs, according to their financial statements released during the week.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/stocks-rebound-as-investors-bet-on-strong-corporate-earnings-1

Mercantile Bank incurs loss in Q2 as interest income plummets

The Business Standard, Aug 01, 2026

- Mercantile Bank PLC, a listed private commercial lender, has reported a consolidated net loss for the second quarter of 2026, driven by a dramatic collapse in its net interest income and deteriorating cash flows.
- According to the bank's un-audited financial statements for the April-June period, the consolidated net loss stood at Tk7.70 crore. This marks a sharp reversal from the corresponding quarter in 2025, when the bank posted a healthy net profit of Tk108 crore.
- Consequently, the loss per share for the quarter reached Tk0.07, a steep fall from the earnings per share (EPS) of Tk0.98 recorded a year earlier.

- The bank's performance for the first half of the year (January-June) was equally subdued. While it managed to remain technically in the black with a consolidated net profit of Tk24.78 crore for the six-month period, this figure is a staggering 88% lower than the Tk201 crore profit reported in the first half of 2025. The half-yearly EPS settled at a mere Tk0.22, compared to Tk1.82 in the prior year.
- Financial analysts point to the bank's core operations as the primary source of distress. Its net interest income – the difference between interest earned on loans and paid on deposits – plummeted by 69% to settle at Tk111 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mercantile-bank-incurs-loss-q2-interest-income-plummets-1504031

Listed MNCs post resilient Q2 despite inflation, energy crisis

The Business Standard, Aug 01, 2026

- Listed multinational companies (MNCs) in Bangladesh delivered a resilient performance in the April-June quarter of 2026, with most reporting higher revenue and profit despite persistent inflation and the ongoing energy crisis.
- Of the 13 MNCs listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, eight posted higher net profits while 10 recorded revenue growth. Together, the blue-chip companies had a market capitalisation of about Tk77,000 crore at the end of the quarter.
- Reflecting strong cash generation, Grameenphone declared a 105% interim cash dividend, while Marico Bangladesh announced a 500% interim cash dividend.

Listed MNCs' Q2 financial performance at a glance

TOP PERFORMER IN APR-JUN

Figures in crore taka	Profit (2026)	Change (% YoY)
Robi Axiata	263	257
BAT Bangladesh	203	97
Berger Paints	173	86
Singer Bangladesh	13.58	-31.05
Bata Shoe	13.30	-9.64

WORST PERFORMER IN APR-JUN

Figures in crore taka	Profit/loss (2026)	Profit/loss (2025)
Heidelberg Materials	-6.13	2.65
Unilever Consumer Care	7.79	24.33
Linde Bangladesh	8.45	10.70
Grameenphone	758	879
Marico Bangladesh	170	194

Source: MNCs financial statements

- Robi Axiata posted the highest quarterly profit at Tk263 crore. British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh reported a 109% year-on-year profit growth to Tk203.67 crore, while Berger Paints Bangladesh doubled its profit to Tk173.2 crore from Tk86.5 crore a year earlier.
- Berger attributed the sharp increase to strong sales, strategic price adjustments to offset higher raw material and packaging costs, lower interest expenses on UPAS loans and a reduced effective tax rate following favourable tax adjustments.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/listed-mncs-post-resilient-q2-despite-inflation-energy-crisis-1504041

DBH Finance H1 profit jumps 32pc

The Business Standard, July 31, 2026

- DBH Finance PLC posted a 32.37 per cent year-on-year increase in profit in the first half of 2026, driven by the reversal of provisions against investments and lower provisioning requirements for loans and advances.
- The non-bank financial institution reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 2.74 for the January-June period, up from Tk 2.07 a year earlier.
- Based on its 202.87 million outstanding shares, the EPS translates into a net profit of about Tk 555.9 million for the first six months of 2026, compared with Tk 419.9 million in the corresponding period last year.
- For the second quarter (April-June), EPS rose to Tk 1.78 from Tk 1.30 a year earlier.
- The quarterly EPS indicates a profit of around Tk 361.1 million, up nearly 37 per cent from Tk 263.7 million in the same quarter of 2025.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/dbh-finance-h1-profit-jumps-32pc

Treasury investments fuel H1 profit growth in most listed banks

The Business Standard, July 31, 2026

- Most listed banks posted double-digit year-on-year profit growth in the first half (January-June) of 2026, buoyed by higher investment income from government securities and increased earnings from fees and commissions.
- Analysts said lenders with lower non-performing loans (NPLs), strong returns from Treasury bills and bonds, steady deposit growth and sound governance outperformed their peers during the period.
- However, several banks remained in the red as deteriorating asset quality and a surge in bad loans following the 2024 political transition forced them to maintain hefty loan-loss provisions, eroding profitability.
- As of Thursday, 28 of the country's 36 listed banks had released their unaudited financial statements for the January-June period. Five listed banks are currently undergoing merger processes.
- Among the reporting banks, 16 posted year-on-year profit growth, five recorded lower profits, six reported wider losses and one slipped into the red during the first half.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/treasury-investments-fuel-h1-profit-growth-in-most-listed-banks

Economy & Industry

PM pledges industry-focused gas supply, faster business approvals

The Business Standard, Aug 01, 2026

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has told business leaders that the country's third floating LNG terminal (FSRU) will be dedicated exclusively to supplying uninterrupted gas to industries, as part of broader measures to ease the energy crisis and help achieve Bangladesh's $100 billion export target by 2030.
- The government is considering importing gas in ISO containers for direct supply to industrial factories to mitigate the ongoing gas shortage. In addition, all business licences and approvals will be issued within 14 days to improve the ease of doing business.
- The prime minister also assured business leaders that the damaged floating LNG terminal (FSRU), currently under repair, is expected to resume operations by 10 August, helping restore gas supply.
- The commitments came during a meeting with the country's leading business leaders to discuss measures needed to raise Bangladesh's annual export earnings to $100 billion by 2030, up from $48 billion recorded in FY2025-26.
- According to a PMO press release, the meeting discussed business expansion, foreign investment promotion and industrialisation.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pm-seeks-stronger-public-private-partnership-boost-economy-1503921

6,000 workers face uncertainty as S Alam shuts 11 factories

The Business Standard, July 31, 2026

- For 17 years, Abdus Salam's life followed the same routine. Every morning, he walked through the gates of S Alam Refined Sugar Industries in Chattogram's Karnaphuli, where the constant hum of machines meant work, income and certainty.
- Today (31 July), the factory stands silent. The gates are locked, the chimneys no longer smoke, and Salam is among nearly 6,000 workers and employees who have lost their jobs after S Alam Group shut down at least 11 factories on Thursday.

- "I never thought I would see the factory like this," Salam told The Business Standard, struggling to hold back tears as he stood outside his former workplace today. "We knew the company was going through a difficult time, but I never imagined everything would come to an end."
- The closure has plunged thousands of families across Karnaphuli into uncertainty, ending decades of employment for many workers who spent most of their working lives in the group's factories.
- Over the past two decades, S Alam Group built one of the largest industrial clusters on the southern bank of the Karnaphuli River investing billions, employing between 6,000 and 7,000 people in sugar, cement, steel, edible oil, feed, bag manufacturing and other industries. Today, almost all of those factories are closed.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/s-alam-shuts-11-chattogram-factories-around-6000-workers-lose-jobs-1503271

International

Figures behind the rush for Hormuz oil export alternatives

The Daily Star, Aug 02 2026

- Disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has prompted oil-producing countries in the Gulf to accelerate plans for alternative export routes, with a series of pipeline projects announced or revived. Here is a breakdown of the proposals.
- A total of 14.95 million barrels per day (mbd) of crude oil was exported through the Strait of Hormuz in 2025, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).Iran exported around 1.69 mbd and is expected to continue relying on Hormuz over the long term given its effective control of the waterway, Andrew Wilson of BRS Shipbrokers told AFP.
- “Iran is just going to produce as much as it can, ship as much to China as it can. It’s not really such an issue,” he said.
- Of the remaining 13.26 mbd, as much as 11.5 mbd could eventually be rerouted by maximising existing pipeline capacity and completing planned projects, according to official announcements and industry experts.
- Before the war broke out in late February, Saudi Arabia transported around 2 mbd of crude through its East-West Pipeline linking Abqaiq, near the Gulf coast, with the Red Sea port of Yanbu, according to the IEA.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/figures-behind-the-rush-hormuz-oil-export-alternatives-4237816

BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

Bank Asia SECURITIES LIMITED

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