BASL DAILY NEWS BUZZ

July 30, 2026

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Key News

Stock Market & Company

Unilever Consumer profit plunges 48% in H1 as inflation squeezes sales

The Business Standard, July 29, 2026

- Unilever Consumer Care Limited, maker of health food drinks Horlicks and Boost, reported a sharp earnings decline in the first half of 2026 as slowing sales and persistently high food inflation squeezed consumer spending.
- According to its unaudited financial statements, net profit after tax fell 48% year-on-year to Tk19.9 crore in January-June, while revenue dropped 8% to Tk141 crore. Earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk10.33.
- The decline was driven by a 9.63% fall in its core health food drinks segment. Revenue from glucose powder, however, rose 2% to Tk19.37 crore, providing a minor cushion against the broader slowdown.
- The second quarter was weaker still. Revenue fell 8% year-on-year to Tk72.96 crore, while net profit plunged 68% to Tk7.79 crore.
- In a price-sensitive disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (29 July), the company attributed the EPS decline to lower sales and a "high-base effect." In the corresponding period last year, it recognised a one-off gain after reassessing trademark and technology royalty obligations, making this year's comparison significantly weaker.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/unilever-consumer-profit-plunges-48-h1-inflation-squeezes-sales-1501566

IPDC Finance profit surges 37.6% in H1 on core earnings, treasury gains

The Business Standard, July 29, 2026

- IPDC Finance PLC, the country's first private non-bank financial institution, has reported a robust 37.6% year-on-year growth in its net profit after tax, reaching Tk20.70 crore during the first half of 2026.
- The company's strong financial performance was primarily underpinned by a significant increase in net interest income, robust investment earnings from government securities, and a disciplined approach to cost management, according to a press release.
- According to the financial results approved by its board on 28 July, IPDC maintained steady business momentum despite persistent domestic and global economic headwinds. The company's total operating income rose by 29% to reach Tk206 crore during the January-June period.
- A significant portion of this growth was driven by core financing activities, which accounted for 60% of the total operating income, reflecting the institution's focus on sustainable long-term growth.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ipdc-finance-profit-surges-376-h1-core-earnings-treasury-gains-1501556

Berger Paints to invest Tk20cr in wholly owned subsidiary

The Business Standard, July 29, 2026

- Berger Paints Bangladesh has decided to invest Tk20 crore in the ordinary share capital of its wholly owned subsidiary, Jenson & Nicholson (Bangladesh) Limited, according to a disclosure published on the stock exchanges today (29 July).
- Jenson & Nicholson manufactures metal containers for the paint, food and other industries. Established in Bangladesh in 1995, the company operates manufacturing facilities in Chattogram and Dhaka.
- Over the years, it has expanded its product range from paint containers to lubricant, engine oil, hair oil and food-grade containers. The company has also entered the fancy container segment, becoming the first manufacturer of such containers in Bangladesh, according to Berger Paints' website.
- Separately, Berger Paints reported a 111% year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit for the April-June quarter, driven by higher sales, strategic price adjustments, lower finance costs and tax-related gains.
- The company's revenue rose 15% to Tk814.19 crore in the first quarter of 2026 from Tk708.73 crore a year earlier.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-paints-invest-tk20cr-wholly-owned-subsidiary-1501551

LafargeHolcim Bangladesh posts Tk104.5cr Q2 profit on aggregates, pricing strength

The Business Standard, July 29, 2026

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC has reported a resilient financial performance for the second quarter ended June 2026, with its net profit after tax rising by 8% year-on-year to reach Tk104.5 crore.
- The multinational cement manufacturer's board today (29 July) approved the unaudited financial statements for the first half of 2026, reporting a strong second-quarter rebound despite persistent inflation and elevated energy costs.
- According to the financial statements, April-June revenue rose 14% year-on-year to Tk739.7 crore from Tk646.6 crore, driven by strategic price adjustments and strong demand for the company's value-added products.
- The improved performance also lifted operating earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) by 18% to Tk140.6 crore, enabling the company to maintain healthy margins despite macroeconomic headwinds.
- Despite the robust second quarter, the first-half results continued to reflect the impact of earlier economic pressures. Net sales for January-June increased 3% year-on-year to Tk1,543.6 crore from Tk1,498.1 crore in the same period last year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lafargeholcim-bangladesh-posts-tk1045cr-profit-q2-aggregates-pricing-power-fuel

UCB H1 profit jumps 90% to Tk34cr on subsidiary earnings, lower provisioning

The Business Standard, July 29, 2026

- United Commercial Bank (UCB) reported a 90% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to Tk34.04 crore in the first half of 2026, driven by stronger contributions from its subsidiaries and a sharp decline in loan-loss provisioning.
- According to the bank's half-year financial statements, consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk0.22 for the January-June period from Tk0.12 a year earlier.
- The bank said the improvement in EPS was largely attributable to better performance by its subsidiaries.
- During the period, interest income edged up to Tk3,097 crore, while interest expenses on deposits and borrowings increased at a faster pace, rising 24% to Tk2,813 crore. As a result, net interest income fell 65% year-on-year to Tk283.72 crore.
- The decline in core interest income was offset by strong non-interest earnings. Income from investments – including government treasury bills, bonds and zero-coupon bonds – jumped 71% to Tk921 crore, while commission, exchange and brokerage income rose 3.3% to Tk428 crore. Other operating income, however, fell to Tk13.37 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/ucb-h1-profit-jumps-90-tk34cr-subsidiary-earnings-lower-provisioning-1501531

Economy & Industry

BGMEA, BKMEA seek uninterrupted CNG supply for garment factories

The Daily Star, July 29, 2026

- Garment exporters have demanded an uninterrupted supply of gas from CNG (compressed natural gas) filling stations to help address the energy crisis.
- The leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) made the demand to the energy secretary and the Petrobangla chairman on Monday in Dhaka, BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem told The Daily Star today.
- Many factory owners have been running their production units on CNG purchased from nearby filling stations, but they sometimes face supply disruptions, he said.
- The exporters want an uninterrupted supply of CNG from the filling stations, said Hatem, who also voiced support for the demand in a Facebook post.
- Earlier, Titas Gas had been directed to withdraw a circular restricting garment factories from buying gas at CNG filling stations, after BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem raised the issue with the government.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bgmea-bkmea-seek-uninterrupted-cng-supply-garment-factories-4235401

Depositors of five merging banks can now withdraw up to Tk 10 lakh

The Daily Star, July 29, 2026

- Depositors of the five merging Islamic banks will now be allowed to withdraw up to Tk 10 lakh not only for their own medical treatment but also for other emergency needs.
- The central bank took a decision in a board meeting held at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters in Dhaka today.
- Previously, withdrawals under the central bank's special scheme were limited to a depositor's own medical expenses.
- Under the revised policy, funds can also be withdrawn for the treatment of immediate family members, including parents, spouses, children, and siblings, as well as for other urgent necessities.
- The decision applies to the five banks that are merging to form Sammilito Islami Bank PLC: First Security Islami, Social Islami, Union, Global Islami, and EXIM.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/depositors-five-merging-banks-can-now-withdraw-tk-10-lakh-4235596

International

Oil rises as US-Iran tension escalates after Iraq strikes, missile attack

The Daily Star, July 28 2026

- Oil prices rose by about $3 a barrel on Wednesday after joint strikes in Iraq by the United States and Saudi Arabia, and the interception of Iran's ballistic missiles aimed at US forces in the Middle East, while US crude inventories shrank.
- Brent futures increased by $3.15, or 3.8 percent, to $87.24 a barrel by 0520 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose $2.73, or 3.4 percent, to $81.99 a barrel.
- "Renewed strength comes after the US said it intercepted a surprise attack on US troops," ING analysts said in a note, adding that the latest developments dampen expectations for a swift de-escalation in the Gulf.
- The United States and Saudi Arabia launched strikes on Iran-backed groups in Iraq on Wednesday, blaming them for drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities, prompting Iran to warn that blaming it for such attacks was a "major miscalculation".
- The strikes came hours after the US military said it averted a surprise Iranian attack on US troops in the region.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-rises-us-iran-tension-escalates-after-iraq-strikes-missile-attack-4235316

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