News Summary - 17 August, 2026

Bangladesh Market Snapshot | Source: Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX	DSES	DS30	Turnover (BDT mn)	Market Cap (BDT bn)
5,859.98	*1,171.37*	*2,184.22*	*11,308*	*7,082*
-0.41%	-0.49%	-0.39%	+0.09%	+0.09%

Bangladesh Macro Snapshot | Source: Bangladesh Bank

Treasury Bill Yield	Call Money Rate	Inflation rate	GDP Growth Rate	Reserve (BPM-6)
9.17%	9.36%	8.32%	4.14%	32.31bn USD
Maturity: 16-08-27	*Date: 16-08-26*	*Period: 2026-07*	*Period: FY26*	*Date: 16-08-26*

Exchange Rate | Source: Bloomberg

USD	EUR	INR	CNH	GBP
122.60	142.09	1.28	18.19	165.68
+0.00%	*+0.09%*	*+0.00%*	*-0.03%*	*-0.10%*

International Market | Source: Bloomberg

MSCI Frontier	S&P 500	SSE Comp	Nikkei 225	FTSE 100
826.17	7,785.76	3,950.45	68,721.44	10,750.10
+0.00%	*-0.17%*	*+0.52%*	*+0.00%*	*-0.21%*

Commodities (USD) | Source: Bloomberg

Gold (Troy ounce)	Brent (Barrel)	Cotton (Pound)	Silver (Troy ounce)	Wheat (Bushel)
4,449.00	88.84	84.71	65.75	771.00
+0.26%	*+0.36%*	*+1.72%*	*+0.99%*	*+0.42%*

Macroeconomy

Exchange rate down as dollar demand ebbs

Bangladesh currency gains some strength as the taka-Dollar exchange rate dropped significantly now amid lower demand for the American greenback, giving some coveted relief to importers, officials and bankers said. Riding on higher exchange rate caused by demand spikes to settle government imports later last month, they noted, remitters sent home a significant sum of foreign currencies while export receipts were also on an upturn. As a matter of fact, according to them, the foreign-exchange netting by commercial banks was enhanced significantly by end of July last. But the demand plummeted after government import settlement from early this month, which caused the exchange rate drop by more than Tk 1.0. According to the treasury officials of commercial banks, bankers are now buying the US dollar from the remitters at rates in-between Tk 122.50 and Tk 122.60 apiece. The exchange rate against remittance was hovering from Tk 123.60 and Tk 123.70 each dollar couple of weeks earlier.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/exchange-rate-down-as-dollar-demand-ebbs-1786904486

Fuel import costs rise 16.6% amid Iran war

Amid sharp swings in global energy prices triggered by the Iran war, Bangladesh opened 16.63 percent more letters of credit (LCs) for petroleum imports in the 2025-26 fiscal year. According to Bangladesh Bank, petroleum import LCs rose to $11.11 billion from $9.52 billion a year earlier. The figures were published in a Bangladesh Bank report on Sunday (16 August). It was not only new fuel import commitments that increased. More dollars were also spent settling earlier obligations. Petroleum LC settlements rose 6.42 percent to $10.68 billion in the last fiscal year.

https://tob.news/fuel-import-costs-rise-16-6-amid-iran-war/

17 banks to give Tk 41,000cr to revive sick businesses

Some 17 banks have agreed to provide Tk 41,000 crore to revive sick companies under the Bangladesh Bank's Tk 60,000 crore stimulus package aimed at reviving closed factories and restoring private-sector investment. The banks are Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank, BRAC Bank, City Bank, Pubali Bank, Eastern Bank, Jamuna Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Uttara Bank, Prime Bank, Bank Asia, NCC Bank, Mercantile Bank, Trust Bank and Southeast Bank, according to Bangladesh Bank officials. The central bank will collect the Tk 41,000 crore from these banks and provide the funds to about 37 banks for onward lending to eligible sick companies after they meet the Bangladesh Bank's conditions.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/310092/17-banks-to-give-tk-41000cr-to-revive-sick-businesses

Capital machinery faces longest port delays

Capital-machinery imports, crucial for setting up factories and expanding production, take an average of 13.3 days to clear through Chattogram port, with more than half of that time being consumed before customs even receives the Bill of Entry (B/E), according to a latest analysis by Chattogram Customs House. The findings were presented recently to Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury at a meeting at the CCH. A one-day delay in cargo clearance is estimated to result in a 1.0 per cent loss of trade, according to research cited in the presentation.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/capital-machinery-faces-longest-port-delays-1786905133

Govt has roadmap for developing e-GP Version 2.0 to build modern procurement system: BPPA CEO

The government has a roadmap for developing e-GP Version 2.0 to build a modern, citizen-centric and technology-driven public procurement system in the country. "What began as a reform initiative in 2001 has evolved into one of the country's digital governance advancement," said Chief Executive Officer (Secretary) of Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) Abu Sayed Md. Kamruzzaman here. In this connection, he said public procurement system in Bangladesh has undergone various reforms and the process is still going on.

https://www.bssnews.net/interview/415029

Govt launches Tk 4b fund to draw local, global capital into startups

The government has launched the Tk 4 billion Bangladesh Fund of Funds to attract local, international and development capital to the country's startup ecosystem, shifting to channel public financing through professionally managed venture capital funds rather than investing directly in individual startups. Startup Bangladesh Limited (SBL), the government's flagship venture capital and fund management company under the ICT Division, formally opened the fund-manager selection process on Sunday (16 August) by issuing a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for eligible venture capital fund managers at a programme at ICT Tower in Agargaon, Dhaka.

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

Fuel & Power

LNG cargo delivery poses major hurdle

The American Excelerate Energy announced on Sunday its readiness to regasify, but LNG-delivery problems cast shadows over resumption of its gas-supply operation, sources said Sunday (16 August). Excelerate announced on the day its readiness to regasify liquefied natural gas (LNG) from its terminal in its full capacity, giving industries, power plants, households and other gas-guzzling consumers to heave a sigh of relief. "It means that Excelerate Energy's floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) has overcome the accident it came through following a fire incident on July 21," a senior Petrobangla official said.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lng-cargo-delivery-poses-major-hurdle-1786904695

BB approves LC opening for SS Power through Rupali Bank

Bangladesh Bank has approved the opening of Letters of Credit (LCs) for SS Power through Rupali Bank with a 100% cash margin until 31 December 2027. The central bank published a gazette notification today (16 August) in this regard. A senior Bangladesh Bank official said that the central bank had sent a proposal to the finance ministry seeking approval to allow the LCs to be opened. Following the ministry's approval, Bangladesh Bank issued the gazette notification.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-approves-lc-opening-ss-power-through-rupali-bank-1516836

Textile

RMG industry trapped in capital-energy lock-in: CPD

Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) industry is trapped in a structural capital-energy lock-in, where expanding machinery under existing technologies could increase overall energy consumption rather than improve efficiency, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The study found that the sewing segment, which accounts for 85.2 per cent of installed machine capacity, has an irreplaceable core of standard sewing equipment, limiting energy savings from machine substitution in the section to less than 3 per cent. By contrast, optimising equipment in the cutting section, which constitutes only 5.5 per cent of total installed machinery, yields a disproportionate 27.3 per cent of total sector-wide energy savings, the study revealed.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-industry-trapped-in-capital-energy-lock-in-cpd-1786904986

Capital Market

Foreign investment in stocks keeps falling

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.

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

Stocks

Midas Financing needs liquidity support to restore client confidence, says auditor

Struggling non-bank financial institution Midas Financing PLC is facing a severe liquidity crunch to meet depositors' requirements, highlighting an urgent need for adequate liquidity arrangements to restore customer confidence, according to its statutory auditor. In the auditor's report for the year ended 31 December 2025, AKM Kamrul Islam, managing partner of Islam Aftab Kamrul & Co, Chartered Accountants, highlighted critical financial distress under an "Emphasis of Matter" paragraph. The report revealed that Midas Financing holds lease, loan, and advance portfolios totalling Tk788.82 crore. Of this amount, non-performing or classified loans stand at Tk432.47 crore – accounting for over 54% of its total loan book – while unclassified loans account for Tk356.35 crore.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/midas-financing-needs-liquidity-support-restore-client-confidence-says-auditor-1516846

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

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 yesterday (16 August).

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

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We calculate our target price by weighting DCF, DDM, SOTP, asset-based and other relative valuation methods, and applying appropriate premiums/ discounts and/or other relevant adjustments.

Expected absolute returns are calculated as the % of difference between our target price and latest close price. Stock recommendations are based on absolute upside (downside) and have a 12-month horizon. Please note that future price fluctuations could lead to a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock and our recommendation.

Recommendation Type	Holding period (if not otherwise mentioned)	Absolute Return Potential
Buy	12 Months	More than +15%
Neutral/ Hold	12 Months	Between -5% and +15%
Underweight	12 Months	Less than -5%

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