Important News Snippets

Monday, August 17, 2026

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Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

Macro:

Exchange rate down as dollar demand ebbs

- According to the treasury officials of commercial banks, bankers are now buying the USD from the remitters at rates in-between BDT 122.50 and BDT 122.60 apiece. The exchange rate against remittance was hovering from BDT 123.60 and BDT 123.70 each dollar couple of weeks earlier.

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

Govt plans single VAT rate for small firms, says finance minister

- The government is preparing to bring small businesses under a single VAT rate as part of efforts to widen the tax net, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said on Sunday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-plans-single-vat-rate-for-small-firms-says-finance-minister-1786904749

Govt launches BDT 4 Bn fund to boost startup investment

- The government launched a fund with an initial size of BDT 4 Bn crore to boost investment in the country's startup ecosystem, attract local and international capital, and strengthen the venture capital industry.

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

PM to meet NBR officials to discuss strategy for huge revenue target

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to meet officials of the National Board of Revenue, in a bid to learn about the revenue authority's field-level operations and processes.

https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/pm-meet-nbr-officials-discuss-strategy-huge-revenue-target-1516926

Businesses seek simpler trade licence process, lower fees

- Business leaders have called for a simpler, faster and hassle-free process for issuing and renewing trade licences, saying recent increases in trade licence and signboard fees are placing additional financial pressure on businesses.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-seek-simpler-trade-licence-process-lower-fees-1516906

CCCI seeks air, cargo reforms to develop Ctg as logistics hub

- Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has proposed to develop the port city into a regional logistics hub, seeking reforms to expand international air connectivity, cargo handling and transit operations.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ccci-seeks-air-cargo-reforms-to-develop-ctg-as-logistics-hub-1786905078

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.

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

Thailand eyes FTA, shipping link to cut transit to 3-5 days

- Thailand is pushing to revive free trade agreement negotiations with Bangladesh while working on a direct maritime route that could slash shipping time between the two countries from around two weeks to as little as three to five days.

https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/417598/thailand-eyes-fta-shipping-link-to-cut-transit-to

6,000 micro economic zones proposed to boost local economies

- Private entity Architecture Research and Development (ARD) has proposed establishing 6,000 micro-economic zones across Bangladesh to boost local production, entrepreneurship and employment while strengthening food security and climate resilience.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/6000-micro-economic-zones-proposed-to-boost-local-economies-1786905203

Sector and Industries:

BANK | Excess liquidity in banks pushes treasury bill yields below 9%

- The yield on 91-day treasury bills fell below 9% to 8.93%, down from 9.19% a week earlier.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/excess-liquidity-banks-pushes-treasury-bill-yields-below-9-1516916

BANK | 17 banks to give BDT 410 Bn to revive sick businesses

- Some 17 banks have agreed to provide BDT 410 Bn to revive sick companies under the Bangladesh Bank's BDT 600 Bn 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.

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

BANK | SAMMILITO ISLAMI BANK INTENSIFIES INVESTMENT RECOVERY

- Sammilito Islami Bank PLC has formed a dedicated 'Collection & Recovery War-Room' to accelerate and strengthen its investments collection and recovery activities and make them more effective and results-oriented.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sammilito-islami-bank-intensifies-investment-recovery-1786898622

BANK | BB relaxes cash margin requirement for fruit imports

- Bangladesh Bank has relaxed the cash margin requirement for opening LCs for fruit imports, replacing the existing 100% cash margin requirement with a margin determined by banks based on their relationship with customers.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-relaxes-cash-margin-requirement-for-fruit-imports

RMG | Garment industry running out of time to go green: CPD

- Bangladesh's garment industry must accelerate its shift to cleaner energy as rising power costs, dwindling gas supplies and tougher climate rules increasingly threaten the sector's competitiveness, according to a new study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/garment-industry-running-out-time-go-green-cpd-4249371

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

ENERGY | Power, gas crisis to take 2 years to resolve: finance minister

- Finance minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury on Sunday said that the country's ongoing electricity and gas crisis would take at least two years to resolve.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/power-energy/310044/power-gas-crisis-to-take-2-years-to-resolve-finance-minister

ENERGY | 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. SS Power can now open LCs to import coal, subject to certain conditions. 70% of SS Power One Limited is owned by Bangladesh's S Alam Group, while the remaining 30% is owned by a Chinese company.

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

ENERGY | 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.

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

Stocks:

REGULATION | Haji Ahmad Brothers Securities penalised over client fund shortfall

- The securities regulator has fined Haji Ahmad Brothers Securities BDT 1 Mn for breaching securities rules by creating deficits in the clients' funds.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/haji-ahmad-brothers-securities-penalised-over-client-fund-shortfall-1786898455

EXCHANGE | 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.

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

UTTARAFIN | 4 Uttara Finance directors, including chairman, MD, resign together

- Four directors of Uttara Finance, including its chairman and managing director (MD), have resigned simultaneously. They were reportedly forced to resign because of unethical pressure from a particular group.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/310123/4-uttara-finance-directors-including-chairman-md-resign-together

MIDASFIN | 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.

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

SHARP | Sharp Industries maintains 60% yarn production capacity amid power constraints

- 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.

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

PREMIERLEA | Audit reveals BDT 2870 Mn 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 BDT 2870 Mn along with total non-provisioning against its fixed deposit receipts (FDRs).

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

RUPALIBANK, BEXIMCO | Rupali Bank to auction Beximco assets to recover BDT 9.94 Bn NPL

- Rupali Bank PLC has issued a public notice to auction mortgaged assets belonging to Bangladesh Export Import Company (Beximco) Ltd to recover a defaulted loan of about BDT 9.94 Bn.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/310087/rupali-bank-to-auction-beximco-assets-to-recover-tk-994cr-npl

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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 82.09	USD 24.66	42.94%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 88.50	USD 27.65	45.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,402.52	USD 61.52	1.42%
DSEX	5,859.98	994.64	20.44%
S&P 500	7,785.76	886.94	12.86%
FTSE 100	10,750.11	818.73	8.24%
BSE SENSEX	78,009.25	-6,784.33	-8.00%
KSE-100	180,104.60	6,050.30	3.48%
CSEALL	21,623.17	-1,001.14	-4.43%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.63 BDT

1 GBP = 166.22 BDT

1 Euro = 142.01 BDT

1 INR = 1.28 BDT

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