Morning Newsflash

Thursday, 13 August, 2026

IDLC-SL Research

Banking

Credit card spending by Bangladeshis rises: BB

August 13, 2026

- Credit card transactions by Bangladeshi citizens both at home and abroad have increased, while spending by foreign nationals within Bangladesh has declined, according to the central bank.
- In June, Bangladeshis spent BDT 2.24bn (USD 18.36mn) more abroad using credit cards compared to May. Domestic credit card spending also rose by BDT 1.73bn (USD 14.18mn) during the same period.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/587788

Banks turn to retail as corporate lending piles up bad loans

August 13, 2026

- One in every three taka lent by Bangladesh's banking sector has now turned into a classified loan, exposing the danger of banks' long-standing dependence on large corporate borrowers.
- But there is one segment where bad loans are far lower: retail banking. Classified loans in retail banking were at 7.10pc at the end of March, compared with nearly 32pc in industry lending, according to Bangladesh Bank data.
- From City Bank and BRAC Bank to Pubali Bank and Bank Asia, lenders are now stepping up their focus on personal, auto, home, and nano loans, while investing in digital platforms and hiring more people for retail operations.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-turn-retail-corporate-lending-piles-bad-loans-1512706

Energy and Power

Govt finally goes for US LNG at jacked-up price

August 13, 2026

- Bangladesh is set to buy 117 cargos of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from an American company over 13 years under government-to-government (G-to-G) arrangement, as the much-talked-about bilateral trade agreement works.
- Officials say the interim government, shortly before leaving office in February, signed with the United States a reciprocal trade agreement (RTA) under which Bangladesh pledged to lower trade deficit by raising imports from America. The move to import 117 cargos of liquefied gas from a US-based supplier is part of that endeavor to lower trade deficit with the economic superpower.
- Of the 117 cargos of LNG, five cargos will be bought in the current year, six in 2027, and three in 2028 at a price of JKM plus USD 0.0875/MMBTU. Moreover, three more cargos in 2029, and 10 cargos each every year during 2029-2038 will be bought in at a price of 121pc of Henry Hub plus 5.20 USD/MMBTU.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govt-finally-goes-for-us-lng-at-jacked-up-price

Corporate

Walton gets HC nod for its merger with Digi Tech

August 13, 2026

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries has received approval from the High Court Division of the Supreme Court to merge with its non-listed sister concern Walton Digi-Tech Industries Limited in a step towards diversification and corporate restructuring. The company disclosed the matter on Tuesday.
- The merger will bring Digi-Tech's technology-focused operations under Walton Hi-Tech, potentially broadening the listed company's business beyond its traditional home appliances and electrical products.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/walton-gets-hc-nod-for-its-merger-with-digi-tech

Capital Market

World's largest sovereign fund trims Bangladesh exposure as Norway's 'Oil Fund' investment hits six-year low

August 13, 2026

- Government Pension Fund Global, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, has significantly scaled back its exposure to the Bangladeshi capital market.
- During the first half of 2026, the fund's investment in the country dropped by 18pc, equivalent to a reduction of USD 21.25mn.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/worlds-largest-sovereign-fund-trims-bangladesh-exposure-norways-oil-fund-investment

International

US consumer prices increase as expected in July

August 13, 2026

- US consumer prices increased slightly in July, potentially weakening the argument for an interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve next month.
- The Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1pc last month after dropping 0.4pc in June, which was the first decline in six years, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said on Wednesday.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/world/us-consumer-prices-increase-expected-july-1513286

Dollar ticks up on Iran tensions
August 13, 2026

- The US dollar ticked higher on Wednesday, underpinned by renewed Gulf tensions, with markets focused on upcoming US economic data for signals on the Fed's policy trajectory.
- Oil prices edged up after the United States and Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis reported separate attacks on shipping on Tuesday, with Tehran saying the Strait of Hormuz would remain closed unless Washington accepts its conditions.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-ticks-iran-tensions-4246301

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