Economy
Bangladesh to adopt April-March financial year from 2028-29
August 18, 2026

- Bangladesh will shift its financial year from the current July-June cycle to April-March from fiscal 2028-29. The 2027-28 fiscal year will instead run for nine months, from July to March, as a transition before the new cycle begins.
- Bangladesh follows a July-June financial year at the moment, meaning infrastructure work often continues through the July-August monsoon. This can delay projects, affect quality and cause widespread public hardship, a statement said.

From:https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bangladesh-to-adopt-april-march-financial-year-from-2028-29

Banking
Bangladesh Bank boosts agricultural credit target by 54pc to BDT 600bn (USD 4.92bn) for FY27
August 18, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has set a new agricultural loan disbursement target of BDT 600bn (USD 4.92bn) for fiscal year 2026-27, raising it by nearly 54pc from the previous target.
- Of the total, state-owned and specialized commercial banks will disburse BDT 204.95bn (USD 1.68bn), while private and foreign banks will distribute the remaining BDT 395.05bn (USD 3.24bn).

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bangladesh-bank-boosts-agricultural-credit-target-by-54-to-tk-600b-for-fy27

BDT 120bn (USD 983.61mn) stuck in interbank legal battles over LC guarantees
August 18, 2026

- Rising disputes over Inland Bill Purchase (IBP) facilities and Letter of Credit (LC) bank guarantees have entangled over BDT 120bn (USD 983.61mn) in Money Loan Courts countrywide, signalling a breakdown in inter-bank trust.
- One such case is a 23-year-old dispute between Uttara Bank and Sonali Bank that began in 2002 over 57 post-dated cheques issued by Chattogram Tobacco Company.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/tk12000cr-stuck-interbank-legal-battles-over-lc-guarantees-1516971

Shariah-based institutions will get 50pc of any sukuk: BB
August 18, 2026

- From now on, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) will allocate half of any sukuk issue to shariah-based banks, financial institutions and insurance companies.
- A separate 30pc will be allocated to Islamic branches and windows of conventional banks, the central bank said in a circular overhauling the subscription allocation for shariah-compliant sukuk bonds.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shariah-based-institutions-will-get-50-any-sukuk-bb-4250096

Cenbank orders finance firms to withhold policy support, incentives from litigant borrowers
August 18, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has ordered finance companies to withhold policy support and incentive packages from borrowers who have pending writ petitions or other cases against the government, the central bank, or the concerned finance company.
- The central bank said it has introduced various initiatives to restructure distressed businesses, restore the financial sector, create employment and support sustainable economic growth. Under these initiatives, finance companies provide borrowers with various forms of policy support and incentives. However, some borrowers have continued litigation against the government, Bangladesh Bank and the concerned finance companies even after receiving such support, creating a backlog of cases in the financial sector.

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From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-orders-finance-firms-withhold-policy-support-incentives-litigant-borrowers

Trade and Commerce
Economic zones planned on land of 3 closed state-owned mills
August 18, 2026

- The government has taken an initiative to establish economic zones on the land of the closed Latif Bawany Jute Mills Limited and Karim Jute Mills Limited in Demra, Dhaka, and Kushtia Sugar Mills Limited.
- The move aims to put long-unused industrial assets back into productive use, attract domestic and foreign investment, establish new industries and create jobs, according to officials of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza).
- The proposed zones will require infrastructure such as internal roads, gas, electricity and water supply to create an investment-friendly industrial environment, officials said.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economic-zones-planned-land-3-closed-state-owned-mills-1517956

Telecom

Airtel now becomes Cirkle
August 18, 2026

- Robi Axiata PLC has replaced its Airtel brand with Cirkle in Bangladesh, saying the rebranding will not affect customers' existing numbers, services, packages, balances or mobile financial services (MFS).
- Cirkle will build on Airtel's 16-year presence among Bangladesh's youth and offer affordable, digital-first services, including future propositions powered by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Robi said.
- Customers will continue to receive uninterrupted service during the transition, while the new brand will offer services covering entertainment, gaming, content creation and online communities.

From :https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/airtel-now-becomes-cirkle-4250241

Capital Market

Pragati Life Insurance approves 25pc dividend for 2025
August 18, 2026

- Pragati Life Insurance PLC has approved a 25pc dividend, including a 15pc cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2025.
- The approval was given at the life insurance company's 26th annual general meeting (AGM), held virtually recently, according to a press release. Mohammed Abdul Awal, chairman of the life insurer, presided over the meeting.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pragati-life-insurance-approves-25-dividend-2025-4250191

CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund-01 unitholders to vote on open-end conversion or redemption
August 18, 2026

- The trustee of CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund-01 has called a special general meeting of its unitholders to consider converting the scheme from a closed-end to an open-end mutual fund, or proceeding with its redemption, according to a stock exchange filing.
- Under amended BSEC rules, closed-end mutual funds are prohibited from extending their operational tenure, leaving conversion to an open-end scheme or winding up (redemption) as the only permissible options upon maturity. To pass a conversion proposal from closed-end to open-end status, at least 75% of the voting unitholders must vote in favor of the resolution.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/capm-bdbl-mutual-fund-01-unitholders-vote-open-end-conversion-or-redemption-1517876

International

China's retail sales, factory activity lagged in July
August 18, 2026

- China's retail sales and factory activity grew at a slower pace in July, official data showed on Monday, missing forecasts and highlighting persistent pressure on the world's second-largest economy.
- The country's leaders have battled sluggish spending in the domestic economy since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic as it threatens overall growth, even as exports and certain high-tech sectors boom.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/chinas-retail-sales-factory-activity-lagged-july-4250146

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