Morning Newsflash

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IDLC-SL Research

IDLC Securities Limited
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Economy

Four key macroeconomic indicators being rebased
August 19, 2026

- Preparation is afoot to rebase four key macroeconomic indicators for better reflecting changes in the structure of Bangladesh's economy with upgraded quality of official data, officials say.
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics or BBS has planned to rebase the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Producer Price Index (PPI), Wage Rate Index (WRI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) under its Statistical Capacity Enhancement and Modernization Project.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/four-key-macroeconomic-indicators-being-rebased

Banking

38 banks seek BDT 280bn (USD 2.30bn) in stimulus funds for struggling businesses
August 19, 2026

- Thirty-eight banks have signed agreements with Bangladesh Bank, seeking over BDT 280bn (USD 2.30bn) under its stimulus scheme, a senior central bank official told The Business Standard on Sunday.
- The central bank has cleared the path for loan disbursements to begin on 1 September after resolving an interest rate dispute with commercial banks over funding for the BDT 410bn (USD 3.36bn) refinancing facility, part of a wider BDT 600bn (USD 4.92bn) package unveiled in May to reopen closed and struggling mills and factories.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/38-banks-seek-tk28000cr-stimulus-funds-struggling-businesses-1517961

BB ties foreigner bank accounts to work permits
August 19, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has instructed all scheduled banks to facilitate bank account opening for foreign nationals with valid and up-to-date work permits from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
- In a circular issued yesterday, the central bank said foreign employees, particularly those working under the A3 visa category, must receive their salaries and allowances through local bank accounts.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-ties-foreigner-bank-accounts-work-permits-4251146

Corporate

Desco's BDT 2.5bn (USD 20.5mn) caught in six troubled banks
August 19, 2026

- The state-owned electricity distributor Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (Desco) is seeking Bangladesh Bank's intervention to recover around BDT 2.5bn (USD 20.5mn) of its revenue and employees' provident and gratuity funds trapped in six financially distressed banks.
- Desco said the deposits needed to be encashed urgently to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, safeguard government revenue, and meet its financial obligations on time.
- Desco has BDT 479.4mn (USD 3.9mn) deposited with Global Islami Bank, BDT 552.7mn (USD 4.5mn) with Union Bank, BDT 599.6mn (USD 4.9mn) with Social Islami Bank, and BDT 462.7mn (USD 3.8mn) with First Security Islami Bank.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/descos-tk250cr-caught-six-troubled-banks-1518866

UCB to exit National Housing by offloading entire stake
August 19, 2026

- United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB), a corporate sponsor of National Housing Finance PLC, has announced its decision to exit the non-bank financial institution by offloading its entire remaining holding of 0.56mn shares.
- In a disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on 18 August, UCB expressed its intention to sell the shares at prevailing market prices through the public market within the next 30 working days. Following the announcement, National Housing shares inched up by 0.68pc to close at BDT 29.40 (USD 0.24). This complete exit comes after a major divestment in August 2025, when UCB sold 5.635mn shares of National Housing through the DSE.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-exit-national-housing-offloading-entire-stake-1518756

Capital Market

BSEC lowers margin loan threshold to BDT 300,000 (USD 2,459)
August 19, 2026

- Investors can now access margin loans against shares with a minimum investment of BDT 300,000 (USD 2,459), down from BDT 500,000 (USD 4,098) under the previous rules.
- Under the new rules, financing institutions can lend up to four times their net assets, up from

three times previously. Margin financing will be available only for “A” and “B” category shares.

- Shares with a price-to-earnings (PE) ratio above 40, up from the previous threshold of 30, or negative earnings per share (EPS) will also be excluded. Life insurance shares with a PB ratio above three or negative net asset value will not qualify.
- The maintenance margin has been reduced from 75pc to 50pc EDR while the forced sell trigger reduced from 50pc to 25pc.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bsec-lowers-margin-loan-threshold-to-tk-300000

Trade and Commerce

Real estate output rises, but developers face hurdles
August 19, 2026

- Real-estate activities in Bangladesh have expanded steadily according to official statistics, though industry insiders say the sector is struggling with high taxes, regulatory restrictions, and weak investment conditions.
- The official nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data indicate real-estate output reached BDT 4.77tn (USD 39.10bn) in FY26, recording 52.5pc growth from BDT 3.13tn (USD 25.66bn) in FY21.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/real-estate-output-rises-but-developers-face-hurdles

International

US 30-year yields hit highest level since 2007 as war, oil worries fester
August 19, 2026

- US 30-year Treasury yields rose to their highest level since 2007 on Tuesday as stalled talks to end the US-Iran war and worries of an imminent escalation sent oil prices above USD 90 a barrel, fanning fears of inflation and jolting markets.
- Rising concerns over fiscal spending amid increasing debt issuance are also weighing on the bond markets even as investors digest a recent run of soft US economic data that has led to traders scaling back rate hike expectations.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-30-year-yields-hit-highest-level-2007-war-oil-worries-fester-4251121

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