Economy

Cost-of-living pressures come from all fronts
August 20, 2026

- Data compiled by the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) shows how sharply the cost of everyday necessities has risen. In the six months since the BNP government took office, prices of most essentials sold in kitchen and grocery markets have increased, with only a few declining and many remaining unchanged.
- There is little relief, whether from locally produced or imported goods. And the pressure extends well beyond food, which already accounts for the largest share of spending by low-income households.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cost-living-pressures-come-all-fronts-1518921

Banking

BFIU orders banks to report linked accounts when any account is frozen
August 20, 2026

- The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has directed banks and other reporting agencies to immediately report details of accounts linked to any account they are ordered to freeze.
- In other words, if an account belonging to a person or entity is frozen over suspicious transactions, money laundering or related offences, the agency cannot stop at freezing that account. It must also identify other accounts linked to the same person or entity and provide their details to the BFIU.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bfiu-orders-banks-report-linked-accounts-when-any-account-frozen-1519801

Govt sets five-year plan to clean up banking sector
August 20, 2026

- The government has set out a five-year plan to clean up the banking sector, with a focus on recovering bad loans, tightening supervision, improving governance and restoring depositor confidence.
- The plan comes as banks grapple with record non-performing loans (NPLs), weak governance, political interference and lending to politically connected businesses. These problems have eroded both capital and profitability of many banks, with state-owned lenders particularly exposed.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-sets-five-year-plan-clean-banking-sector-4251926

Islamic banks' remittance receipts fall 27pc in June
August 20, 2026

- Remittances channelled through Islamic banks fell 27pc year-on-year to USD 448mn in June 2026, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) report.
- Islamic banks' share of total remittances received through the banking system stood at 16pc that month, down from 22pc a year earlier. In May, the previous month, the share was 19pc, the BB said in its monthly Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics report for June.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/islamic-banks-remittance-receipts-fall-27-june-4251911

Trade and Commerce

USD 8b of World Bank finance stuck in long project procedures, design flaws
August 20, 2026

- Of the roughly USD 12bn in project aid pledged by the World Bank, more than USD 8bn remained undisbursed as of June, for reasons including procedural delays at various stages – from project conceptualization and appraisal to board approval and the first disbursement – that consume nearly a year.
- By the time the first instalment is released, almost a year, sometimes even more, of the grace period is already gone. World Bank financing typically comes with three to five years' grace period. On average, it takes 4.4 months from board approval to signing the financing agreement, another 2.1 months to make the agreement effective, and a further 5.3 months to receive the first disbursement – an 11.8-month journey, according to an Economic Relations Division (ERD) analysis of the reasons behind Bangladesh's chronic project delays and implementation failures that lead to cost and time overruns.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/8b-world-bank-finance-stuck-long-project-procedures-design-flaws-1518896

Energy and Power

Merchant power risks losing price appeal under proposed charges
August 20, 2026

- Big factories and industries hoping to save money by buying electricity directly from private power plants, instead of the national grid, may find those savings shrink sharply if a new set of proposed fees are implemented, according to an analysis of the proposals.

- The utilities have now proposed four separate open-access charges, following a framework recommended by a technical committee in a February report on the impact of the policy. The proposals were made by distribution utilities, Power Grid Bangladesh and Power Development Board (PDB).
- The four such toll-like charges are: Injection Charge, Transmission Wheeling Charge, Receiving Charge, and Energy Management and Accounting Charge.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/merchant-power-risks-losing-price-appeal-under-proposed-charges-4251941

Telecom

Banglalink seeks nod to launch satellite-to-mobile service

August 20, 2026

- Banglalink has sought regulatory approval to commercially launch a satellite-to-mobile service that will allow smartphones to connect directly to satellites, enabling it to offer connectivity in remote and hard-to-reach areas.
- The mobile operator has requested the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to approve the commercial launch of Direct-to-Cell (D2C) services, initially offering SMS and Lite Data connectivity under its existing Cellular Mobile Services Operator Licence.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/banglalink-seeks-nod-launch-satellite-mobile-service-4251831

International

Gold firms

August 20, 2026

- Gold rose as US Treasury yields eased on Wednesday, with investors awaiting minutes of the Federal Reserve's July meeting for fresh clues on its monetary policy outlook. Spot gold rose 0.6pc to USD 4,359.58 per ounce by 0737 GMT, after falling nearly 2pc in the previous session due to higher Treasury yields, while US gold futures slipped 0.2pc to USD 4,413.40.
- A global bond selloff on Tuesday saw long-term borrowing costs in major economies edge toward their highest levels in decades, pressuring the non-yielding precious metal.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gold-firms-4251836

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