Morning Newsflash

Monday, 17 August, 2026

IDLC-SL Research

IDLC Securities Limited
financing happiness

Economy

Excess liquidity in banks pushes treasury bill yields below 9pc

August 17, 2026

- Interest rates on treasury bills have declined by 21-25bps as banks are flush with excess liquidity while demand for private-sector credit remains weak.
- According to Bangladesh Bank data, the yield on 91-day treasury bills fell below 9pc to 8.93pc on 16 August, down from 9.19pc a week earlier. The yield on 182-day treasury bills declined to 9.07pc from 9.32pc, while the rate on 364-day bills fell to 9.13pc from 9.33pc over the same period.

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

Trade and Commerce

Capital machinery faces longest port delays

August 17, 2026

- 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.
- A one-day delay in cargo clearance is estimated to result in a 1.0 per cent loss of trade. The cost of the delays, however, is ultimately borne by businesses and consumers, as prolonged clearance of machinery can postpone factory commissioning, capacity expansion and new investment while adding to production and logistics costs.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/capital-machinery-faces-longest-port-delays

New panel formed to address tea industry woes

August 17, 2026

- The government has formed a 12-member committee to oversee the development of Bangladesh's tea industry, which is facing financial strain from years of losses, high borrowing costs, falling exports, rising production expenses and low productivity.
- The Prime Minister's Office issued a notification yesterday forming the Monitoring and Advisory Committee, with the commerce minister as its chairman.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/new-panel-formed-address-tea-industry-woes-4249361

Capital Market

Foreign investment in stocks keeps falling

August 17, 2026

- 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.
- In the last fiscal year 2025-26, foreign investors withdrew a net USD 223mn from the stock market. The outflow in FY26 was higher than the USD 138mn recorded a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

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

International

Dollar falls on surprise drop in US retail sales

August 17, 2026

- The dollar fell on Friday after data showed US retail sales unexpectedly declined in July, helping send the euro and sterling to multi-month highs, as traders weighed Federal Reserve policy.
- Retail sales dropped 0.6pc last month after an unrevised 0.2pc gain in June.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dollar-falls-surprise-drop-us-retail-sales-4249286

Gold retreats after hitting two-month peak

August 17, 2026

- Gold fell more than 1pc on Thursday as investors locked in gains after prices climbed to two-month highs following US inflation data that was in line with expectations, tempering expectations for a Federal Reserve rate hike next month.
- Spot gold fell 1.2pc to USD 4,354.58 per ounce by 12:58 a.m EDT (1658 GMT). Prices touched their highest level since June 5 earlier in the session at USD 4,449.39.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gold-retreats-after-hitting-two-month-peak-4249271

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