

Economy

Forex reserves stand at USD 36.39bn as per BB

October 18, 2026

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 36.39bn, according to the latest data released by Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Saturday.
- Reserves calculated under the IMF's BPM6 methodology stood at USD 31.58bn.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/forex-reserves-stand-at-3639-billion>

Banking

Foreign banks play it safe with low-cost deposits, careful lending

October 18, 2026

- Foreign commercial banks in Bangladesh rely more heavily on low-cost deposits from businesses than their local peers, helping them keep funding costs down while lending to large corporations and multinational companies with strong credit records.
- Their business model, built on relatively cheap deposits, lower-risk corporate borrowers and strong financial buffers, has helped them maintain healthy profit margins, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-banks-play-it-safe-low-cost-deposits-careful-lending-4301161>

Telecom

BTRC prepares '2G Sunset Plan' by 2029

October 18, 2026

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has charted a phase out roadmap for exiting 2G technology by December 2029, with affordable smartphones at the centre of the shift for more than sixty million feature phone users on the network, who have from July 1, 2027 to December 31, 2029 to move to newer devices.
- The BTRC said the decision aims to encourage handset manufacturing and technological transition. It was taken at the BTRC's last Commission Meeting held this month, where the concerned department submitted working papers on the "2G Sunset Roadmap and Action Plan".

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/btrc-prepares-2g-sunset-plan-by-2029>

Trade and Commerce

BB consolidates forex, gold licensing rules

October 18, 2026

- Bangladesh Bank has consolidated existing rules on licensing foreign exchange dealers, money changers and gold traders into a single circular to make regulatory requirements easier to access and follow.
- It covers licensing and renewal procedures, foreign currency transactions, gold imports and exports, anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance, reporting requirements, and the central bank's inspection and licence cancellation powers.
- It also sets out eligibility criteria and application procedures for authorized importers of gold ore.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-consolidates-forex-gold-licensing-rules-4301226>

IDRA bars life insurers from forcing claimants to buy new policies

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- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has barred life insurance companies from forcing policyholders or nominees to purchase new policies as a condition for receiving insurance claims.
- The regulator has also prohibited insurers from deducting premiums for new policies from the proceeds of existing claims, saying such practices violate the law and undermine policyholders' interests.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/idra-bars-life-insurers-forcing-claimants-buy-new-policies-4300971>

Corporate

High Court orders liquidation of Regent Airways operator over USD 3.71mn debt

October 18, 2026

- The High Court on 17 October ordered the liquidation of HG Aviation Ltd, the operator of Regent Airways under Habib Group, over its failure to repay more than USD 3.7mn in aircraft lease dues to US-based Wilmington Trust Company. A company cannot evade an acknowledged and payable debt by citing the possibility of securing investment in the future, the court said.
- The court also appointed Supreme Court lawyer Asif Bin Anwar as a government liquidator to oversee the liquidation process and recover the outstanding amount of USD 3,709,827.38 for the creditor.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/high-court-orders-liquidation-regent-airways-operator-over-371m-debt-1575956>

Capital Market

Renata profit jumps 64pc on operational, management efficiencies

October 18, 2026

- According to its financial statements, Renata's consolidated revenue grew only 7.7pc year-on-year to BDT 46.2bn (USD 378.7mn) in FY26 despite the significant increase in profit.
- The company recommended a 55pc cash dividend, equivalent to BDT 5.50 (USD 0.045) per share, unchanged from the previous fiscal year. At a board meeting on 17 October, the drug-maker approved its annual financial statements and recommended the dividend.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/renata-profit-jumps-64-operational-management-efficiencies-1575781>

International

Poorest energy-importing nations falling behind as AI widens global divide: IMF

October 18, 2026

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that low-income, energy-importing countries outside the artificial intelligence (AI) value chain are falling further behind, having been vulnerable to begin with.
- Speaking at the closing press briefing of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok on October 17, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said discussions were marked by both optimism and worry.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/poorest-energy-importing-nations-falling-behind-ai-widens-global-divide-imf-4300941>

Oil touches USD 110 a barrel for first time since May on Middle East, Russia supply fears

October 18, 2026

- Brent touched USD 110 a barrel for the first time since May on Friday on worries that escalating tensions in the Middle East could further tighten supplies, while investors assessed how much diesel Russia could supply to the global market.
- Brent crude futures settled USD 3.94, or 3.7pc, higher at USD 109.86, the highest since May 19, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures closed USD 3.44, or 3.5pc, higher at USD 101.41, the highest since September 17.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-touches-110-barrel-first-time-may-middle-east-russia-supply-fears-4300711>

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