

Economy

Non-food costs fuel inflation to 8.36pc in Sept

October 07, 2025

- Bangladesh's headline inflation rose slightly to 8.36pc in September from 8.29pc in August, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
- The increase was driven mainly by non-food prices, which climbed to 8.98pc from 8.90pc, while food inflation moved up to 7.64pc from 7.60pc.
- Although September's rates were below the previous year's levels, when food prices rose 10.4pc and non-food prices 9.5pc, average inflation has stayed above 8pc so far this fiscal year, exceeding the government's target of 6.5pc.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/non-food-costs-fuel-inflation-836-sept-4003191>

BB buys USD 104mn more, total nears USD 2bn

October 07, 2025

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday purchased USD 104mn from commercial banks as part of its efforts to ensure stability in the exchange rate and maintain reserves at a level sufficient to meet external payment obligations. The central bank said it bought the greenback from eight banks at rates between BDT 121.78 and BDT 121.80 per dollar.
- With this transaction, total dollar purchases under the auction method in the current fiscal year (FY) have reached USD 1,981mn, reversing the central bank's previous stance of selling from its dollar stocks.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-buys-104m-more-total-nears-2b-4003216>

Project procurement, execution delays leave nearly half of ADB's funds unspent

October 07, 2025

- Nearly half of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) committed funds for Bangladesh remain unutilised due to persistent delays in project execution and procurement.
- Data presented at the Tripartite Portfolio Review Meeting (TPRM) on 30 September revealed that USD 5.68bn, or 48.1pc of the total ADB portfolio, remains undisbursed as of August 2025. Besides, the uncontracted balance – the portion of funds approved but not yet signed into contracts – stands at USD 2.54bn, representing 21.5pc of the portfolio.
- Bangladesh's ADB portfolio currently totals USD 11.81bn across 50 projects in seven key sectors.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/project-procurement-execution-delays-leave-nearly-half-adbs-funds-unspent-1254506>

Govt forms taskforce to strengthen tax system, mobilize domestic resources

October 07, 2025

- The government has formed a high-powered taskforce to identify ways to boost domestic resource mobilization and strengthen the country's tax system in line with development and fiscal sustainability goals. The Internal Resources Division (IRD) of the finance ministry issued a notification on Sunday.
- The nine-member taskforce will formulate recommendations to reform and reorganize the tax structure to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio, and propose short- and long-term measures to support economic growth and trade. The taskforce will be chaired by Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/tax-and-customs/news/govt-forms-taskforce-strengthen-tax-system-mobilise-domestic-resources-4003621>

UN to assess Bangladesh's LDC graduation readiness independently

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- In response to business leaders' calls to delay Bangladesh's LDC graduation, the government has decided not to postpone the process but to commission an independent assessment through the United Nations to evaluate the country's preparedness, identify external risks after graduation, and boost confidence.
- On 25 September, the government wrote to the United Nations requesting an independent assessment of Bangladesh's readiness for LDC graduation, the current economic situation, and potential post-graduation external shocks and vulnerabilities.
- Responding to the request, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (UN-OHRLS) agreed on 29 September to carry out a comprehensive and impartial analysis of Bangladesh's graduation preparedness. It has committed to submitting the report to the government by December, according to a letter sent to Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky, secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/un-assess-bangladeshs-ldc-graduation-readiness-independently-1254531>

Banking

SMEs can now remit up to USD 3,000 annually: BB

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- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has permitted small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to remit up to USD 3,000 annually for bona fide current expenses abroad, in a move aimed at supporting the sector's growing role in the economy.
- The central bank said the facility may be used through traditional banking channels or refillable international cards, to be issued by authorised dealer (AD) banks. Under the new rules, the ADs may issue "SME Cards" with a ceiling of USD 600 per refill to nominated officials of enterprises. The combined total of card refills and banking-channel remittances cannot exceed the USD 3,000 annual limit.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/smes-can-now-remit-3000-annually-bb-4003166>

Trade and Commerce

Gold price rises past BDT 0.2mn (USD 1,645.7) a bhoiri

October 07, 2025

- Gold prices have crossed the BDT 0.2mn (USD 1,645.7) mark for the first time in Bangladesh, as jewellers yesterday decided to increase the price by BDT 3,199 (USD 26.2) per bhoiri.
- With effect from today, each bhoiri of 22-carat gold will cost BDT 200,775 (USD 1,645.7) — a historic high — according to the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus).
- Industry insiders attribute the surge mainly to the international bullion market, the devaluation of the taka, economic uncertainty, and high inflation.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gold-price-rises-past-tk-2-lakh-bhoiri-4003361>

Universal Pension yields 11.6pc profit for contributors; govt expanding scheme coverage

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- The government has announced an 11.61pc profit for contributors to the Universal Pension Scheme for the fiscal year 2024-25. According to an NPA statement, a total of 3,73,987 contributors had deposited BDT 1879.7mn (USD 15.4mn), including the opening balance, as of June 30, 2025. The total profit generated during FY 2024-25 amounted to BDT 163.3mn (USD 1.3mn).
- In another decision, the board approved an increase in the maximum monthly contribution under the Surakkha Scheme for self-employed individuals from BDT 5,000 (USD 41) to BDT 15,000 (USD 123), aligning it with the Pragati Scheme.

- The NPA board further discussed introducing an Islamic version of the Universal Pension Scheme. It emphasized preparing a concept paper after reviewing best international practices and initiating steps to launch the Shariah-compliant version soon.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/universal-pension-yields-1161-profit-contributors-govt-expanding-scheme-coverage-4003341>

Regulator proposes steep cuts to insurers' management costs

October 07, 2025

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra) has proposed stricter limits on how much life and non-life insurance companies can spend on management costs, aiming to strengthen financial discipline and reduce delays in claim settlements. The draft proposal, however, has met strong opposition by insurance firms, as they argue that the existing rules should remain in place for a few more years to allow the sector to adjust.
- Under the new draft, both life and non-life insurers would face deep cuts in allowable management expenses. These expenses include operational costs such as agent commissions, staff salaries and administrative overheads.
- For life insurance, the management cost for annual premium policies will be cut from 5pc to 4pc, while for installment-based policies it will drop from 10pc to 7pc.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/regulator-proposes-steep-cuts-insurers-management-costs-4003566>

International

Vietnam's footwear exports to US fell 27pc in Sept amid Trump tariffs

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- Vietnam's footwear exports to the United States plunged 27pc in September to USD 611mn, marking the steepest decline among all sectors following the implementation of tariffs by the U.S. government, according to customs data released Monday. Textile exports also saw a sharp monthly drop of 20pc, while shipments of phones and components fell by 24.38pc according to the Vietnam customs.
- Despite these sectoral declines, Vietnam's overall exports to the United States edged down just 1.5pc to USD 13.7bn in September, cushioned by gains in coffee and machinery exports, the data showed.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/vietnams-footwear-exports-us-fell-27-sept-amid-trump-tariffs-4003016>

Gold climbs above USD 3,900 level for first time

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- Gold prices touched an all-time high on Monday, soaring above the USD 3,900-per-ounce level, as investors flocked to safe-haven bullion amid the US government shutdown, broader economic uncertainty, and prospects of further Federal Reserve rate cuts.
- Spot gold was up 1.5pc at USD 3,942.59 per ounce, as of 0910 GMT, after hitting USD 3,949.34 earlier in the session. A US gold futures for December delivery climbed 1.5pc to USD 3,967.10.
- Washington will start mass layoffs of federal workers if US President Donald Trump decides negotiations with congressional Democrats to end a partial government shutdown are "absolutely going nowhere," a senior White House official said on Sunday.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gold-climbs-above-3900-level-first-time-4002951>

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