

Economy

WB projects Bangladesh's GDP to grow by 4.8pc in FY26

October 08, 2025

- The World Bank projects that Bangladesh's economy would maintain an upward growth, while both inflation and poverty would fall in the current and next fiscal years, but warns that intense political unrest surrounding the elections and post-election period could reduce investment more than expected.
- In its Bangladesh Development Update released on 7 October, the global lender projects Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rise to 4.8pc in the 2025-26 fiscal year from 4pc in FY25 before moving up further to 6.3pc in FY27.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-expected-see-48-gdp-growth-fy26-investment-slows-job-creation-stalls-wb-report>

Economy expanded at quicker pace in Sept: PMI

October 08, 2025

- Bangladesh's economy expanded at a quicker pace in September, as the country's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 59.1, up 0.8 points from August, indicating renewed momentum across all major economic sectors.
- This latest PMI reading was attributed to a faster expansion rate for the manufacturing index, but a slower expansion rate for the services index. In contrast to August, when growth had moderated and both agriculture and construction had contracted, the September reading marks a strong rebound.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-expanded-quicker-pace-sept-pmi-4004436>

Govt amends VAT law to regain power to grant exemptions

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- The government has amended the Value Added Tax (VAT) Law 2012, restoring its authority to grant exemptions from the indirect tax through special orders, according to an ordinance issued by the law ministry on Monday.
- The development comes months after the government in the Tax Expenditure Policy and Management Framework (TEPMF) removed the National Board of Revenue's (NBR) power to grant exemptions from VAT, supplementary duty (SD), and advance tax.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-amends-vat-law-regain-power-grant-exemptions-4004431>

Poverty, inflation in Bangladesh set to ease in next two years: World Bank

October 08, 2025

- The World Bank has projected a brighter economic outlook for Bangladesh, forecasting that both poverty and inflation will gradually ease by the next two years.
- In its latest Bangladesh Development Update October 2025 report released on 7 October, the World Bank projected the national poverty rate to decline to 19.1pc and inflation to ease to 7.4pc in the current fiscal year (2025-26), down from an estimated 21.2pc and 10pc, respectively, a year earlier.
- The World Bank said that after remaining elevated for three consecutive years, inflation is projected to ease further, reaching around 5.5pc by FY2026-27. It also mentioned that a more stable exchange rate and contained international commodity prices would help reduce imported inflation.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/poverty-inflation-bangladesh-set-ease-fy27-world-bank-1254776>

Trade and Commerce

Shipping giant CMA CGM imposes surcharge on shipments via Chattogram Port

October 08, 2025

- Global shipping giant CMA CGM is set to introduce an Emergency Cost Recovery Surcharge (ECRS) on all import and export shipments through Chattogram Port (irrespective of contract or shipment terms), effective 26 October 2025, following the Chittagong Port Authority's (CPA) recent tariff revision that takes effect on 15 October.
- According to the notice, ECRS rates will range from USD 45 to USD 305 per container, depending on type and cargo category. Dry containers will incur USD 45 for 20-foot and USD 70 for 40-foot units, while reefer containers will face USD 40–USD 90, out-of-gauge cargo USD 110–USD 245, and hazardous cargo USD 140–USD 305. Payments will be collected locally, based on vessel berthing dates at Chattogram Port.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/shipping-giant-cma-cgm-imposes-surcharge-shipments-chattogram-port-1255301>

Chattogram Port logs 12pc growth in first quarter amid inflation, export slowdown

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- Despite rising inflation and export challenges, the Chattogram Port has recorded growth in

container, cargo, and ship handling during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

- According to the port authority, 927,713 TEUs were handled in July–September 2025, compared to 826,528 TEUs during the same period last year, an increase of 101,185 TEUs or 12.24pc.
- Cargo and ship handling also grew, with almost 33mn metric tons of cargo and 1,031 ships handled, up from 28.9mn metric tons and 944 ships last year. This represents a growth of 13.88pc in cargo and 1.22pc in ship handling.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chattogram-port-logs-12-growth-first-quarter-amid-inflation-export-slowdown-1255141>

RMG

Garment exports find a workaround after India ends transshipment

October 08, 2025

- Garment exports to Europe have remained largely unaffected by India's suspension of transshipment through its airports, as Bangladeshi exporters adapt by using alternative routes and improved facilities at home.
- Exporters said that since India halted the transshipment facility in April this year, most of them now send goods by sea from Chattogram port to Colombo in Sri Lanka. When shipments face tight schedules, consignments are then flown from Dubai after arriving from Colombo. Otherwise, large vessels carry goods directly from Colombo to their destinations.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/garment-exports-find-workaround-after-india-ends-transshipment-4004416>

Corporate

Alfamart enters Bangladesh with USD 120mn retail venture in partnership with Kazi Farms

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- Indonesian retail powerhouse Alfamart is making its entry into Bangladesh through a joint venture with Kazi Farms Group, one of the country's leading conglomerates, and Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation, a global business giant with deep roots in the Asian retail industry.
- The partnership will introduce a network of convenience-based retail outlets across Bangladesh, focusing on fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG).
- The venture aims to bring global retail standards, cutting-edge technology, and professional supply chain management to a market dominated by local stores and fragmented distribution systems.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/alfamart-enters-bangladesh-120m-retail-venture-partnership-kazi-farms-1255136>

Capital Market

Company source tax on securities income raised to 15pc

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- The interim government has increased the source tax on interest, profit, or other income earned by companies from government and other securities from 10pc to 15pc. Previously, the rate was 10pc for all taxpayers, including companies.
- However, the new rate will now apply only to companies, while the previous rate remains unchanged for individual or non-corporate taxpayers. An ordinance in this regard was published on 6th October.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/company-source-tax-securities-income-raised-15-1255056>

International

Goldman hikes gold price forecast

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- Goldman Sachs raised on Monday its December 2026 gold price forecast to USD 4,900 per ounce from USD 4,300, citing strong Western exchange-traded fund (ETF) inflows and likely central bank buying.
- "We see the risks to our upgraded gold price forecast as still skewed to the upside on net, because private sector diversification into the relatively small gold market may boost ETF holdings above our rates-implied estimate," Goldman said.
- Spot gold was trading around USD 3,960 per ounce, as of 0130 GMT on Tuesday, after hitting a fresh high of USD 3,977.19 earlier in the day.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/goldman-hikes-gold-price-forecast-4004466>

US tariffs on Indian exports to slow South Asia growth

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- The World Bank on Tuesday said higher tariffs on Indian goods exported to the US will drag the South Asian growth rate in 2026, even as the current year remains shielded by government spending.
- The World Bank said growth in South Asia is expected to slow sharply to 5.8pc in 2026 from its projection of 6.6pc for 2025. Its forecast for the region comprises India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-tariffs-indian-exports-slow-south-asia-growth-4004486>

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