

Economy

Bangladesh gets deep into hard-term debts

December 04, 2025

- Bangladesh is increasingly getting into hard-term-debt burden by taking volumes of non-concessional loans particularly for bankrolling some mega-and major projects, officials say and warn of forex risks.
- According to ERD, the ADB is to provide USD 508mn hard-term loan for the Chittagong-Dohazari railway-line project, USD 50mn for Khulna WASA, USD 91mn for expanding distribution network under the NESCO from its non-concessional. Among the already-confirmed non-concessional loans, AIIB's USD 400mn budget support, EIB's Euro 90mn for Sayedabad water-treatment plant and Euro 70mn for the Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply (Dhaka WASA) project were also approved.
- The non-concessional loan committee also approved IDB's USD 231mn loan for the construction of five climate-resilient bridges in Mymensingh division, which is also a market-based loan.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-gets-deep-into-hard-term-debts>

Import LC settlements plummet 10pc in Nov amid economic slowdown

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- Data from the Bangladesh Bank shows that LC settlements – payments made against previously opened import LCs – dropped to USD 4.87bn in November 2025, down from USD 5.38bn recorded in November 2024. This follows a previous year-on-year decline of 11.48pc in October.
- The opening of new LCs, which dictates future settlements, has also decreased, though at a slightly slower pace. LCs worth USD 5.57bn were opened in November this year, a 4.62pc reduction from the USD 5.84bn opened in the corresponding period last year. This is an improvement from October, which saw a 12pc year-on-year drop in new LC openings.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-lc-settlements-plummet-10-nov-amid-economic-slowdown-1301486>

Mega project costs surge in currency shock

December 04, 2025

- For the Rooppur plant alone, estimated costs may rise by 23pc, equal to BDT 261bn (USD 2.15bn). However, the project value in dollars stays the same. So far, the project has used USD 8.29bn,

valued at BDT 95.28 per dollar. The rest of the financing, equal to USD 3.09bn, is projected at an exchange rate of BDT 122.4.

- A mass rapid transit (MRT-1) official recently informed Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) that the cost of Japan's funding package would rise to BDT 756.5bn (USD 6.2bn) from BDT 394.5bn (USD 3.2bn), while the total project was originally estimated at BDT 539.8bn (USD 4.4bn). For MRT-5, the latest assessment shows BDT 155.3bn (USD 1.3bn) will be needed for just one of ten packages which was originally priced at BDT 39.7bn (USD 325.25mn).

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mega-project-costs-surge-currency-shock-4049946>

EU, BIDA highlight key reforms to boost investment

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- The EU and BIDA held a high-level dialogue highlighting the need for stronger reforms across customs, logistics, standards, compliance, regulations, and import procedures to attract quality European investment and support Bangladesh's post-LDC growth.
- European envoys and BIDA officials stressed regulatory predictability, transparency, digitalization, port modernization, SME support, and investor grievance resolution as key steps to deepen EU-Bangladesh trade and FDI ties.

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/556662>

Govt updating Pakistan-era law on commodities

December 04, 2025

- Commerce Ministry drafting amendments to the 1956 Control of Essential Commodities Act to modernize market monitoring, redefine hoarding, and account for new regulatory bodies like the Bangladesh Competition Commission and Directorate of National Consumers' Rights Protection.
- According to the commerce secretary, Mahbubur Rahman, the old law gave the commerce ministry control over cotton, yarn, biscuits, rayon, and food items. However, over the years, separate ministries, departments, and organizations have taken over the responsibility of regulating and monitoring these markets.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-updating-pakistan-era-law-commodities-4050036>

Bank

Bangladesh plans PayPal integration to boost SME market access

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- Bangladesh Bank aims to enable PayPal-linked global payments for SMEs after removing regulatory barriers, targeting smoother cross-border transactions and expanded international access.
- BSCIC's current loan disbursement stands at just BDT 2,000mn-2,500mn (USD 16.4mn-20.5mn), far below required levels prompting calls for partnerships with MFIs or specialized banks to widen SME credit reach.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-plans-paypal-integration-boost-sme-market-access-4049661>

Trade and Commerce

Refiners hike oil price without govt approval

December 04, 2025

- Refiners have reportedly once again increased the prices of soybean oil, even though the government says it has not authorized the hike in the essential commodity.
- 1-litre bottles at BDT 198 (USD 1.6) (up 5pc), 5-litre bottles at BDT 965 (USD 7.9), amid 8.17pc inflation; global import costs rose from USD 1,090 to USD 1,203 per tons.
- Domestic consumption for 2024-25 estimated at 2.86mn tons, including 1.135mn tons of soybean oil (85pc imported); refiners submitted price hike proposal on Nov 10, planned effective Nov 24, but government did not approve.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/refiners-hike-oil-price-without-govt-approval-4049981>

Shrimp sector struggles to keep pace with regional peers despite potential

December 04, 2025

- Shrimp exports have weakened despite strong potential, as Bangladesh lags India, Vietnam and Indonesia in Vannamei adoption; momentum lost even though global demand is steady and the sector supports millions.
- Policy push required including EFPF reform to allow BFFEA members access to up to BDT 500mn (USD 4.1mn) financing, along with agro-sector classification and value chain upgrades to regain competitiveness.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shrimp-sector-struggles-keep-pace-regional-peers-despite-potential-4049821>

RMG exporters support relaxed FOC rules, local suppliers raise investment and value addition concerns

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- Govt move to remove 50 FOC import quota faces pushback from BTMA and BGAPMEA, who warn local value addition and investments of USD 23bn textiles and USD 3bn accessories may be at risk.
- RMG exporters support unlimited FOC imports to cut LC costs, ease sourcing and secure more orders, while ministry will hold further consultations with both sides before final decision.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-exporters-support-relaxed-foc-rules-local-suppliers-raise-investment-and-value>

Govt may cut mobile phone import duty to curb illegal imports

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- The government is considering reducing import duties on legally imported smartphones ahead of the launch of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) on December 16.
- The National Board of Revenue (NBR), the commerce ministry and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) have agreed on measures to curb unauthorized imports, support local manufacturers and ease rules for expatriates, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-may-cut-mobile-phone-import-duty-curb-illegal-imports-4050111>

Summer onion project wilts as seeds cannot withstand heat

December 04, 2025

- Government spent nearly BDT 370mn (USD 3.0mn) in incentives over two years to promote summer onion cultivation, but Nasik N-53 seeds failed in 40°C conditions, with farmers reporting sprouting followed by crop collapse and zero yield.
- In 2024, BDT 198.5mn (USD 1.6mn) supported 60,518 farmers and in 2025 BDT 170mn (USD 1.4mn) aided 50,000 farmers, yet experts say heat-intolerant seed variety undermined project goals, calling for policy accountability and heat-tolerant alternatives.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/agriculture/news/summer-onion-project-wilts-seeds-cannot-withstand-heat-4049826>

Capital Market

JMI Specialized Hospital to become public limited company

December 04, 2025

- JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Ltd has announced the conversion of JMI Specialized Hospital Limited (JSHL), a subsidiary, into a public limited company.
- The decision was taken at a board meeting on December 2, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/jmi-specialized-hospital-become-public-limited-company-4049651>

International

Global growth to slow to 2.6pc in 2025: UN report

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- Global growth will slow to 2.6pc in 2025, down from 2.9pc in 2024, due to growing pressure from financial volatility and geopolitical uncertainty facing global trade and investment, the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released on Tuesday.
- The UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2025 shows that shifts in financial markets affect global trade almost as strongly as real economic activity, influencing development prospects worldwide, said the UN trade body

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/556667>

More US soybean shipments to China due to load through mid-December

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- China resumes US soybean buying with at least six vessels scheduled through mid-December plus one already enroute, following a reported commitment to purchase 12mn tons by year end though Beijing has not confirmed.
- Bookings near 2mn tons for 2025/26 remain below pre trade war demand keeping soybean futures near five-year lows while total shipments still trail past volumes despite renewed cargo activity.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/more-us-soybean-shipments-china-due-load-through-mid-december-4049571>

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