

Economy

Bangladesh's forex reserves climb to USD 27.22bn

December 11, 2025

- Bangladesh's forex reserves rose to USD 27.22bn dollars calculated under the International Monetary Fund's BPM6 from USD 26.51bn dollars on 1 December, driven by central bank dollar purchases amid improved remittance inflows.
- Bangladesh Bank has bought over USD 2.5bn dollars this fiscal year through auctions to stabilize the exchange rate and absorb excess dollar supply in the banking system.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-forex-reserves-climb-2722b-1306761>

Bangladesh economy projected to grow 5pc in 2026: Mastercard report

December 11, 2025

- Bangladesh's economy is projected to grow around 5pc in 2026, supported by easing inflation and strong remittance inflows that are expected to help households despite structural challenges, according to the Mastercard Economics Institute (MEI) 2026 Outlook.
- Inflation stood at 8.29pc in November, up slightly from 8.17pc in October but lower than November of the previous year, which recorded 11.38pc, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-economy-projected-grow-5-2026-mastercard-report-4055221>

ADB lowers Bangladesh's growth forecast further

December 11, 2025

- ADB cut Bangladesh's FY26 growth forecast to 4.7pc from 5pc due to weak exports, 0.62pc export growth in July to November, and investment uncertainty ahead of February elections.
- Private credit growth slowed to 6.23pc, the lowest in 20 years, as high borrowing costs and political uncertainty dampened investment; government reduced FY26 GDP target to 5pc and export target to 9pc.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-lowers-bangladeshs-growth-forecast-further-4055481>

After a decade of decline, poverty rising again since 2022: Salehuddin

December 11, 2025

- Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the poverty rate has been rising since 2022, reversing

more than ten years of steady decline. After warnings from international agencies and local think tanks in recent months, the government has now publicly acknowledged that the number of people living in poverty is growing.

- A World Bank report last month projected that the poverty rate in Bangladesh will rise to 21.2pc in 2025, up from 20.5pc the previous year. The bank estimated that more than 0.3mn people fell into poverty in 2024, a sign that the economy is losing its ability to shield vulnerable populations from economic shocks.
- In August, the Power and Participation Research Centre, a policy think tank, reported that the poverty rate had surged to 27.93pc from 18.7pc in 2022.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/after-decade-decline-poverty-rising-again-2022-salehuddin-4055746>

Bank

Bank deposit growth falls below 10pc mark in October

December 11, 2025

- Bank deposits grew 9.62pc in October to BDT 19,240bn (USD 157.7bn), slowing from August–September; strong banks continued attracting funds while weak banks struggled amid confidence issues, high inflation, and reduced household savings capacity.
- Cash outside banks fell by BDT 73.6bn (USD 0.6bn) to BDT 2,700bn (USD 22.1bn), but analysts warn the decline doesn't necessarily reflect higher bank deposits, as funds may be shifting to non-bank or informal economic channels.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-deposit-growth-falls-below-10-mark-october-1306566>

Govt borrows BDT 100bn (USD 0.82bn) off-calendar, central bank monitors liquidity

December 11, 2025

- The government borrowed BDT 100bn (0.82bn) off-calendar this quarter, BDT 50bn (USD 0.41bn) crore via a 91-day T-bill and BDT 50bn (USD 0.41bn) via a five-year bond at 10.55pc, likely to manage liquidity after the BDT 200bn (USD 1.64bn) capital injection into Sammilito Islami Bank.
- Bangladesh Bank officials and analysts say the off-calendar borrowing is a short-term fund-management move, but must be monitored to avoid inflation or crowding out private borrowers as loan demand begins to pick up.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-borrows-BDT-10000cr-calendar-central-bank-monitors-liquidity-1306851>

5 troubled banks' depositors to get up to BDT 200,000 (USD 1,639) by Dec, but through new account

December 11, 2025

- Depositors of five merged Shariah-based banks can receive up to BDT 200,000 (USD 1,639) each from the deposit insurance fund via new accounts at Sammilito Islami Bank, which began operations on 2 December.
- Bangladesh Bank released the insurance fund, with disbursement targeted for December; eligibility requires NID-linked accounts, one account per depositor per bank, and loan adjustments must be completed before payouts for those with linked debts.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/5-troubled-banks-depositors-get-BDT-2-lakh-dec-through-new-account-1305981>

Trade and Commerce

Rules eased for capital goods import

December 11, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank has eased procedures, allowing industrial importers to bring in capital goods on a usance term of up to three years without requiring prior approval from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
- The central bank issued a circular referencing the decision of the 186th meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on Foreign Loan/Supplier's Credit of BIDA, chaired by the Bangladesh Bank governor

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rules-eased-capital-goods-import-4055291>

Govt delays blocking of unauthorized handsets by 3 months

December 11, 2025

- The government has delayed the blocking of unauthorized mobile handsets by up to three months, a top official confirmed.
- Earlier, the blocking of unofficial handsets through the implementation of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) system was scheduled to begin on December 16.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-delays-blocking-unauthorised-handsets-3-months-4055371>

ICDs defer cargo-handling closure, give authorities a month to resolve tariff row

December 11, 2025

- ICD owners postponed their 11 December cargo suspension after CPA sought one month to

resolve the tariff dispute; 19 depots say charges unchanged for nine years despite rising costs.

- The 19 ICDs handle 2.2mn containers yearly and can store 106000 TEUs; proposed tariff hikes of 30pc to 63pc faced opposition, with a court stay keeping operations under old rates.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/19-private-icds-defer-suspension-export-and-empty-container-handling-one-month-1306706>

Corporate

Banglalink given primary approval to launch digital wallet

December 11, 2025

- Banglalink received Bangladesh Bank's one-year NOC to launch a digital wallet as a PSP, becoming the second telecom after Grameen Telecom, which obtained its final license in June.
- The service will offer transfers, remittances, bill payments, merchant payments, micro-savings, and insurance; Bangladesh currently has nine licensed PSPs, and players like Robi, Daraz, and Chaldal have applied to enter.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banglalink-given-primary-approval-launch-digital-wallet-4055321>

Capital Market

Regulator cancels TradeCap's license renewal application

December 11, 2025

- The license renewal application of TradeCap Stock Brokerage Ltd was rejected nine months after the submission of documents, as the regulator found that the company's ownership transfer was not done properly.
- Now, stock investors who traded through this brokerage house, formerly known as Anwer Khan Modern Securities Ltd, will have to transfer their shares to other brokerage houses through a link account if they want to continue trading.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulator-cancels-tradecaps-licence-renewal-application-4055376>

International

Global trade to exceed USD 35tn in 2025: UN report

December 11, 2025

- The United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) expects global trade to exceed USD 35tn dollars in 2025, growing 7pc year on year and adding USD 2.2tn, driven mainly by stronger volumes rather than price effects.
- East Asia posted 9pc export growth and 10pc intra-regional trade, while Africa and South-South

flows strengthened; UNCTAD warns of weaker trade in 2026 due to rising debt, higher costs, and uncertainty.

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/557595>

How China Inc is marching into Vietnam amid US tariffs

December 11, 2025

- Chinese firms are expanding in Vietnam, leading investment inflows and sending record shipments to Hanoi in defiance of US calls for decoupling, as the Communist neighbors beef up ties.
- Recent steps that Hanoi had long resisted on security grounds include sensitive tech contracts for Chinese telecoms firms Huawei and ZTE; approval of Chinese loans for high-speed rail links; and Chinese-made COMAC planes cleared by regulators for a leading airline

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/how-china-inc-marching-vietnam-amid-us-tariffs-4055091>

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