

Economy

Bangladesh's debt repayments jump 617pc, fastest in S Asia

December 10, 2025

- External debt repayments by both the public and private sectors in Bangladesh have increased far more sharply than in any other South Asian country over the past 15 years, even though the country's export earnings have not kept pace.
- Across South Asia, countries together paid USD 95bn in 2024 to repay foreign loans and the interest on them. This was 253pc higher than it had been 15 years earlier, according to the World Bank's (WB) International Debt Report 2025, released on Sunday.
- Bangladesh's repayments grew the fastest in the region. In 2024, the country paid USD 7.3bn in total, a 617pc jump from 2010. No other country in the region saw an increase on this scale.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-debt-repayments-jump-617-fastest-s-asia-4054581>

No hope for interest cut as inflation stays intractable

December 10, 2025

- Interest rate cannot be reduced in the near future as price-fueled inflation still stays intractably high, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur said Monday to set at rest businesses' pleas.
- The governor added that, the deposit rate is still high at nearly 10pc. This trend may not change within a year or in one and a half years. So, the reduction in policy rate at this moment may not be possible.

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/no-hope-for-interest-cut-as-inflation-stays-intractable>

Bangladesh's vaccine export dreams on hold over WHO certification

December 10, 2025

- Nearly a decade on, Bangladesh remains grounded in the global vaccine race as its Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has yet to secure the World Health Organization's Maturity Level-3 (ML-3) certification, a key requirement for pre-qualification and large-scale export of locally produced vaccines.
- WHO evaluates nine key areas for ML-3, including vaccine registration, clinical trials, market surveillance and control, knowledge management, quality maintenance, testing, legal authority, logistics support, and human resources.

From:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-vaccine-export-dreams-hold-over-who-certification-1304981>

NBR to develop automated system linking return submission with banks: Chairman

December 10, 2025

- NBR is developing an automated system linking taxpayers' return submission with banks, retrieving balances, annual profits, TDS, and charges automatically, eliminating the need for multiple bank certificates.
- The system ensures only taxpayers can view their data, no transaction-level access by NBR, and aims to simplify filing, reduce errors, and enhance transparency before next year.

From:

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-to-develop-automated-system-linking-return-submission-with-banks-chairman>

Bank

BB buys USD 2.51bn from banks so far in FY26

December 10, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has bought USD 2.51bn from commercial banks so far in the fiscal year 2025–26, including USD 202mn in this week.
- Stronger export and remittance inflows have lifted supply, helping the taka appreciate from BDT 122.85 on July 2; reserves stand at USD 31.21bn (BPM6: USD 26.51bn). The central bank purchased the amount from 13 commercial banks at rates ranging from BDT 122.27 to BDT 122.29.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-buys-251-billion-banks-so-far-fy26-4054321>

Bangladesh Bank tightens rules on incentive bonuses for bankers

December 10, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank has tightened bonus rules, barring banks from paying incentive bonuses from unrealized income, retained earnings, or when they have capital or provisioning shortfalls. Bonuses must come only from realized annual profits, and deferred provisioning cannot be counted.
- Banks must show improved KPIs and progress in loan recovery before awarding any incentives. For state-owned banks, the new Incentive Bonus Guidelines 2025 will apply. The directive was issued under Section 45 of the Bank Company Act, 1991.

From:

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-bank-tightens-rules-incentive-bonuses-bankers-4054516>

New bank coming for small entrepreneurs

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- The government has taken an initiative to set up a new "Microcredit Bank" aimed at helping small entrepreneurs secure capital on easier terms.
- To this end, the Financial Institutions Division (FID) under the finance ministry has drafted the Microcredit Bank Ordinance-2025 and published it on the division's website.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/new-bank-coming-small-entrepreneurs-4054571>

Trade and Commerce

Chinese firm Wing Tai Garments to invest USD 10.32mn in Bepza EZ

December 10, 2025

- Wing Tai Garments (Bangladesh) Co Ltd, a Chinese company, will invest USD 10.32mn to set up a readymade garment factory in the Bepza Economic Zone (Bepza EZ) at Mirsharai, Chattogram.
- The company will produce a diverse range of apparel, including knitwear garments such as ladies', kids', and men's tops, T-shirts, trousers, and shorts, with an annual production target of 1.56mn pieces.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chinese-firm-wing-tai-garments-invest-1032-million-bepza-ez-4054326>

Govt to procure 50,000 MT non-basmati rice; 10,000 MT lentil

December 10, 2025

- Government approved procurement of 50,000 tons of non-Basmati rice from India at a total cost of BDT 2,149mn (USD 17.6mn) to strengthen food reserves and stabilize prices.
- 10,000 tons of lentil will be purchased domestically for BDT 723.5mn (USD 5.9mn) at BDT 72.35/kg (USD 0.59), ensuring adequate supply and supporting market price stability.

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/557498>

Energy and Power

Govt approves purchase of LNG cargo from UK

December 10, 2025

- Collected Photo The government has approved the purchase of one LNG spot cargo from the UK at USD 10.37/MMBtu, totaling BDT 4,360.7mn (USD 35.7mn), to meet winter energy demand.
- The decision was taken during the 49th meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on

Government Purchase. The meeting also cleared a BDT 3,474.6mn (USD 28.5mn) construction package under the Haor flyover project in Sunamganj.

From: <https://www.observerbd.com/news/557504>

Govt approves 12 solar power projects worth BDT 398.6bn (USD 3.3bn)

December 10, 2025

- Government approved 12 solar projects totaling 918 MW, costing BDT 398.62bn (USD 3.3bn); competitive bidding cut tariffs below BDT 10/kWh, creating estimated yearly savings of BDT 11.69bn (USD 0.096bn) for the power system.
- Major projects include 200 MW in Fatikchhari at BDT 9.45 per kWh and 150 MW in Pabna at BDT 9.62 per kWh, alongside tariff cuts for a Mymensingh plant and approvals for rice and LNG imports.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-approves-12-solar-power-projects-worth-BDT-39862cr-4054591>

International

Pakistan secures further USD 1.2b loan from IMF

December 10, 2025

- Pakistan received an additional USD 1.2bn from the IMF, bringing total disbursements to USD 3.3bn, after narrowly avoiding default in 2023 and stabilizing growth to a projected 3.2pc with inflation dropping to 6.3pc.
- The IMF urged further reforms, including privatizing state firms, strengthening anti-corruption measures and investing in climate resilience, as Pakistan remains one of the fund's largest borrowers with a USD 7bn program underway.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pakistan-secures-further-12b-loan-imf-4054606>

Trump says US will allow sale of Nvidia AI chips to China

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- Trump said the US will allow Nvidia to export H200 AI chips to approved Chinese customers with a 25pc payment to the US, reversing Biden-era restrictions while keeping Blackwell and Rubin chips US-only.
- Democrats warned the move risks aiding China's military and tech sectors, while analysts noted the H200 is ~6x more powerful than the previously permitted H20 and may further accelerate China's push for domestic chip development.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trump-says-us-will-allow-sale-nvidia-ai-chips-china-4054831>

Warner Bros fight heats up with USD 108bn hostile bid from Paramount

December 10, 2025

- Paramount Skydance on Monday launched a hostile bid worth USD 108.4bn for Warner Bros Discovery, in a last-ditch effort to outbid Netflix and create a media powerhouse that would challenge the dominance of the streaming giant.
- Netflix had emerged victorious on Friday from a weeks-long bidding war with Paramount and Comcast, securing a USD 72bn equity deal for Warner Bros Discovery's TV, film studios and streaming assets

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/warner-bros-fight-heats-108-billion-hostile-bid-paramount-4054221>

EU launches antitrust probe into Google's data use for AI

December 10, 2025

- The EU announced Tuesday it had opened a probe to assess whether Google breached antitrust rules by using content put online by media and other publishers to train and provide AI services without appropriate compensation.
- The European Commission said the investigation would look into concerns that the US tech giant might be distorting competition by imposing unfair terms and conditions on publishers and content creators, or by granting itself privileged access to their output

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu-launches-antitrust-probe-googles-data-use-ai-4054601>

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