

Economy

Govt restricts raw jute export, sparking debate

September 10, 2025

- The government has restricted the export of raw jute, and slapped conditions on shipments, in a bid to increase the supply of the natural fibre in the domestic market and curb rising prices. The restrictions were placed based on recommendations from the textiles and jute ministry.
- The move has drawn mixed reactions from traders with some saying it will hurt farmers and is unlikely to achieve its intended results, while others argue that it is the right decision to safeguard national interest.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-restricts-raw-jute-export-sparking-debate-3982016>

As funds run out, labor data collection stops

September 10, 2025

- BBS suspended the Labor Force Survey this year after project funds ran out, leaving policymakers without current labor-market data as unemployment rises and forcing decisions to rely on estimates rather than field-collected evidence.
- The last quarterly LFS (Oct–Dec 2024) showed unemployed rose to 2.73mn (from 2.66mn in Jul–Sep), so real-time monitoring gaps mean we lack clarity on how recent shocks hit jobs and youth.
- BBS says it will submit a fresh project this month to resume surveys, but attempts to move LFS funding to the revenue budget have failed for decades, so interruption risk will persist unless institutional funding is secured.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/funds-run-out-labour-data-collection-stops-3982086>

Rules eased for faster release of bonded goods

September 10, 2025

- NBR will let bonded-warehouse field offices release goods promptly when HS-code or description mismatches occur, provided the first four HS digits match and the license holder submits an undertaking to update the record.
- If customs find a completely different HS code on physical exam, goods can be released within two days after updating the code in the Customs Bond Management System, cutting clearance waits that stall shipments.
- The NBR says the measures will remove procedural bottlenecks, lower exporters' costs, speed shipments and improve compliance, which should support export growth and foreign-

exchange earnings if applied consistently across field offices.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rules-eased-faster-release-bonded-goods-3981606>

Savings instruments sales plunge 41pc in July amid rate cuts, inflation

September 10, 2025

- Net sales of savings instruments plunged 41pc year-on-year to BDT 12.93bn (USD 10.62mn) in July 2025.
- Economists say lower yields and faster payoffs from bank deposits and T-bills are luring investors away from traditional savings tools, triggering the sharp decline amid a broader shift in investment behavior.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/savings-instruments-sales-plunge-41pc-in-july-amid-rate-cuts-inflation>

Women's unpaid work in Bangladesh worth BDT 5.7tn (USD 46.7bn): BBS

September 10, 2025

- BBS estimates the value of women's unpaid household work at approximately BDT 5.7tn (USD 46.7bn). The estimate is based on 2021 figures, the BBS said in its Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA) report, which measures the economic value of unpaid household activities.
- According to the findings, unpaid work contributes between 14.1pc and 17pc of Bangladesh's GDP.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/womens-unpaid-household-work-worth-BDT570000crore-bbs-1232401>

Banking

Working committee formed for bank merger

September 10, 2025

- The interim government has formed an eight-member working committee to implement the merger of five Shariah-based banks
- Md Kabir Ahmed, a deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, will lead the committee. The other members are: Mohd Rashedul Amin, joint secretary of the finance division; Sheikh Farid and Mohammad Saidul Islam, joint secretaries of the FID; Mohammad Zahir Hussain, a director of Bangladesh Bank; Farid Ahmed, deputy secretary of the finance division; and Kazi Arif Uz Zaman and Md Nazim Uddin, additional directors of the BB.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/working-committee-formed-bank-merger-3981926>

Lenders asked to file annual CSR budget by Feb

September 10, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank told all scheduled banks and NBFIs to file annual CSR budgets and supporting documents by February each year, aiming to monitor CSR work closely and ensure funds are used according to sector-wise expenditure requirements.
- Banks must attach net profit after tax based on December accounts and the board-approved CSR budget; if revised, they must submit an updated version with the six-monthly report. The circular takes immediate effect per the regulator.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lenders-asked-file-annual-csr-budget-feb-3981751>

Overall deposit growth weak, yet strong banks slash rates

September 10, 2025

- Overall deposit growth remains weak (3pc increase) yet stronger banks are cutting deposit rates to shore up lending, aiming to balance growth without hurting profitability. Other factors are also at play such as - the downward trend in government treasury bill and bond yields, along with limited investment opportunities.
- Analysts caution banks may face margin squeeze if the trend continues, urging them to explore alternative funding sources like bond issuance or retail note programs.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/overall-deposit-growth-weak-yet-strong-banks-slash-rates-1231766>

BB's loan rescheduling: Relief for borrowers, burden for banks

September 10, 2025

- Bangladesh Bank is working on a loan rescheduling plan to ease pressure on borrowers, but banks warn it could raise their costs and tighten liquidity unless regulators provide compensatory support.
- The central bank will need to clarify how it will absorb the extra burden—through cost subsidies or capital injections—so banks aren't left exposed by rescheduling defaults.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bbs-loan-rescheduling-relief-borrowers-burden-banks-1231756>

Trade and Commerce

Partial exporters to soon get bank-backed bond facility

September 10, 2025

- To boost export diversification and earnings, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to introduce a temporary duty-free bond facility for partial exporters against 100pc bank guarantees. At the same time, the revenue board is moving towards full automation of bond services, which will permanently replace manual procedures.
- Other reforms include conditional relaxing of delivery of goods/services from licensed warehouses to EPZ or EZ enterprises, releasing consignments even if HS codes mismatch, as long as the first four digits match.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/partial-exporters-soon-get-bank-backed-bond-facility-1232681>

Many high-end cars hidden out of tax return

September 10, 2025

- Nearly 40pc of luxury cars owned by Large Taxpayer Unit filers—123 out of 309—weren't declared on tax returns, suggesting serious tax evasion. NBR's intelligence cell has begun reopening those tax files.
- Over 5,288 high-end vehicles (engine > 3000 cc, value > BDT 10mn (USD 82,135.52)) are registered, yet only around 2,719 were declared; 1,339 went unreported, and 409 owners didn't file tax returns at all.
- Tax investigators flagged 188 vehicles needing explicit review, and 148 cars bought last year must appear on FY2025-26 returns—or face enforcement action.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/many-high-end-cars-hidden-out-of-tax-return>

Energy and Power

Govt to buy BDT 10.0bn (USD 81.97mn) worth of LNG

September 10, 2025

- The government has approved the purchase of two cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market at a total cost of BDT 10bn (USD 82.21mn). The cabinet committee on public purchase approved the purchases today, under which one cargo will arrive in November and the other in December.
- The Energy and Mineral Resources Division will buy BDT 4.98bn (USD 40.90mn) worth of LNG at USD 11.85 per mn British thermal units (MMBtu), which will be supplied by Aramco Trading Singapore Pte Ltd. The second cargo will be purchased at BDT 5.03bn (USD 41.31mn), or USD 11.97 per MMBtu, from Gunvor Singapore Pte Ltd.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-buy-BDT-1000-crore-worth-lng-3981846>

Telecom

Starlink establishes four local gateways

September 10, 2025

- Starlink installed four local gateways, two at Kaliakair (Gazipur), one in Rajshahi and one in Jashore, and BTRC inspections confirmed large antennas and equipment but could not verify full functionality due to absence of Starlink representatives.
- Local partners will run the gateways: FIDC manages Kaliakair, Bondstein runs Rajshahi and Summit links Jashore to Kaliakair via fibre, while Robi and BSCL are authorized resellers; BSCL paid USD 2.5mn for hardware and reseller rights.
- Robi will market Local Priority and Global Priority tiers for enterprise and community use, resellers set local prices and get hardware/service discounts, a setup likely to speed internet for banks, hospitals, factories and rural schools while reshaping connectivity options.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/starlink-establishes-four-local-gateways-3982116>

International

Trump-China deal rests on the art of the possible

September 10, 2025

- Trump is pushing for a new China deal despite weak payoff from 2019; 46pc tariffs still cover much of the USD 580 bn bilateral trade, so a deal would quickly ease US economic pain and rebalance supply chains.
- Deal prospects hinge on politics and trust: Trump's unpredictability, strong domestic opposition and Beijing's risk aversion mean Xi would want iron-clad assurances before any summit, making any agreement fragile and short-lived.
- China holds leverage in rare earths and semiconductors; Beijing could press for looser US controls on Nvidia-class chips, and the administration's temporary carveout tied to a 15pc revenue cut shows those trade-offs are politically possible.
- A sticking point is US demands that China publicly punish fentanyl traffickers, which Beijing may resist as humiliating; grand investment pledges look politically implausible, so negotiators will likely prefer narrower, trade-specific fixes.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trump-china-deal-rests-the-art-the-possible-3982156>

Wealthy apparel shoppers in US shrug off tariffs

September 10, 2025

- Wealthy US apparel shoppers are shrugging off tariffs: Levi's raised prices on some items in July with no slowdown, and Moody's says the top 10 pc (earning at least USD 250,000) now account for roughly half of consumer spending.
- Retailers from Ralph Lauren to Under Armour are leaning into full-price strategies, testing higher-priced items and using improved consumer tracking to target promotions, so many firms that absorbed some tariff costs plan lighter discounting over the holiday season.
- If full-price tests falter, retailers will pivot fast to targeted promotions—geo- and behavior-based offers—letting firms protect margins while keeping inventory moving, a capability analysts say reduces the need for broad, store-wide markdowns.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wealthy-apparel-shoppers-us-shrug-tariffs-3982146>

Japan says lower US tariffs will take effect by September 16

September 10, 2025

- US tariffs on Japanese goods, including cars and auto parts, will be cut to 15pc and take effect by Sep 16, ending the timing uncertainty after President Trump's executive order was published last week.
- The July trade deal pairs 15pc tariffs with a USD 550bn US-bound investment and loans package; Japan says MFN status for pharmaceuticals and semiconductors was not included and will push Washington to formalize commitments.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/japan-says-lower-us-tariffs-will-take-effect-september-16-3981676>

US tariffs worsen petrochemical sector challenges, executives warn

September 10, 2025

- At the APPEC conference in Singapore, executives warned U.S. tariffs risk triggering a fresh 15pc plunge in global petrochemical trade on top of a 34pc drop over the past five years due to chronic overcapacity.
- Asset-light trading houses are under severe pressure, while tariffs are pushing Chinese products into traditional markets like South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- India stands out with stable consumption growth, offering a rare bright spot amid the broader sector slowdown and rising protectionism.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-tariffs-worsen-petrochemical-sector-challenges-executives-warn-3981626>

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