

Economy

Import LCs rise 22pc YoY in Sep as fuel, raw material become costlier

October 13, 2026

- Bangladesh's letters of credit (LCs) for imports rose to USD 8.10bn in September, the highest monthly level in 53 months, as higher fuel and raw material prices pushed up import costs alongside a modest increase in import volumes.
- LC openings rose 22.37pc year-on-year from USD 6.62bn in September last year. LC settlements, meanwhile, stood at USD 6.38bn in September.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-lcs-rise-22-yoy-sep-fuel-raw-material-become-costlier-1570931>

Bangladesh, WB, IMF reach policy consensus on reforms, govt focuses on investment

October 13, 2026

- Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Planning Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir on 12 October said Bangladesh has reached broad policy alignment with the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on key economic reforms aimed at restoring stability, strengthening discipline in the banking sector, increasing tax revenue and creating employment.
- The government is pursuing a comprehensive economic recovery and reconstruction strategy, with greater domestic and foreign investment, reopening closed factories, expanding social protection and addressing rising energy costs among its major priorities

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-wb-imf-reach-policy-consensus-reforms-govt-focuses-investment-1570441>

Strong deposit growth fails to spur private credit: GED

October 13, 2026

- Strong deposit growth in August has failed to spur robust private sector credit expansion, according to a government report.
- Banking sector deposits stood at BDT 21.31tn (USD 174.7bn) in August 2026, up 12pc year-on-year, according to the Economic Update Outlook September 2026 prepared by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission.
- In contrast, private sector credit grew by 4.75pc year-on-year to BDT 18.3tn (USD 150bn) in August, below the 6.35pc growth recorded in the same period the previous year, according to the report.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/strong-deposit-growth-fails-spur-private-credit-ged-4297211>

Banking

NGOs now dominate rural lending; agriculture's share of loans shrinks

October 13, 2026

- The findings were presented at a workshop on food-system financing organized on 12 October by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), with support from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Better Diets and Nutrition Science programme.
- NGO microfinance institutions account for three out of every four rural loans. Although the median size of NGO microloans has nearly doubled in real terms, borrowers face mounting repayment pressure. NGO loans carry a flat 15pc rate, equivalent to an effective rate of about 27pc, compared with bank lending rates averaging around 10pc. Informal moneylenders charge 50pc-60pc annually.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ngos-now-dominate-rural-lending-agricultures-share-loans-shrinks-1570676>

Corporate

BRAC Bank allowed to appoint up to three directors from a single shareholder

October 13, 2026

- BRAC Bank has been granted permission to appoint up to three representative directors on behalf of a single shareholder company, following Bangladesh Bank's relaxation of a provision of the Bank Company Act, 1991.
- As a result, a shareholder company holding 10pc or more, but no more than 50pc, of the bank's shares may appoint up to three representative directors to its board.
- A Bangladesh Bank official said BRAC owns 46% of BRAC Bank's shares. Under the existing law, the organization could not appoint multiple representative directors to the bank's board. With the provision relaxed for BRAC Bank, it will now be possible for BRAC to appoint more than one representative director, subject to the limit of three.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/brac-bank-allowed-appoint-three-directors-single-shareholder-1570806>

Two Beximco firms get BB lifeline to keep business going

October 13, 2026

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed lending restrictions for two loan-defaulting companies of the Beximco Group to help them maintain regular business operations.
- The central bank issued two separate circulars yesterday, granting exemptions to Beximco LPG Unit-1 and Shinepukur Ceramics.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/two-beximco-firms-get-bb-lifeline-keep-business-going-4297226>

Capital Market

IPO rules to be made easy to attract new listings

October 13, 2026

- The stock market regulator will bring major changes to its initial public offering (IPO) rules to make it easier for new companies to get listed on the stock market, said Masud Khan, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).
- The new rules would take into account accumulated losses incurred by companies undertaking long-term infrastructure projects, but loss-making companies will not be allowed to be listed, he said.
- The proposed changes also include expanding the scope of audits, revising debt repayment requirements for IPO proceeds and adopting international methods for share price valuation.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ipo-rules-be-made-easy-attract-new-listings-4297136>

Trade and Commerce

Bangladesh signs USD 335.78m Chinese loan for Mongla port modernisation

October 13, 2026

- Bangladesh has signed a USD 335.78mn loan agreement with China's Export-Import Bank to expand and modernise Mongla Port, including the construction of two container terminals equipped with modern machinery.
- The loan agreement, worth RMB 2.404bn or BDT 35.93bn (USD 294.5mn), was signed, according to a press release issued by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-signs-33578m-chinese-loan-mongla-port-modernisation-4297216>

International

Saudi Arabia eyes raising its pipeline oil export capacity to 10mn bpd, energy minister says

October 13, 2026

- Saudi Arabia could add up to 1.2mn barrels per day of oil export capacity within seven to eight weeks by temporarily converting a gas pipeline for crude shipments.
- Up to 3mn bpd could be added in total with further investment, Abdulaziz said at the World Petroleum Congress in Riyadh.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/world/global-economy/saudi-arabia-eyes-raising-its-pipeline-oil-export-capacity-10-million-bpd>

Global poverty index rises for first time since its 2010 creation

October 13, 2026

- A UN global poverty index has risen for the first time since its creation in 2010, bringing the number of people affected to 1.2bn, the United Nations Development Programme reported Monday.
- In the 2026 edition of their annual report, the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative research center counted 51.5mn more people living in "acute" poverty compared to the previous year.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/global-poverty-index-rises-first-time-its-2010-creation-4297181>

Dollar firm near 18-month highs

October 13, 2026

- The dollar traded around its highest in a year and a half on Monday, as an escalating Middle East conflict kept investors wary ahead of key US inflation data later this week.
- That could shape the outlook for interest rates. Oil prices were volatile after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis stepped up strikes on Saudi Arabia, while two tankers were attacked over the weekend.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-firm-near-18-month-highs-4297176>

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Morning Newsflash

Tuesday, 13 October, 2026

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