

Economy

IMF satisfied with Bangladesh's economic progress since budget, says finance minister

October 17, 2026

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed satisfaction with Bangladesh's economic progress since the announcement of the national budget, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said after a meeting with IMF Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke on Wednesday.
- The discussions covered banking sector reforms, tax revenue mobilization, bank recapitalization, and macroeconomic stability, with the IMF raising several observations on outstanding issues, according to the minister.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/imf-satisfied-with-bangladeshs-economic-progress-since-budget-says-finance-minister>

Bangladesh overtakes India in per capita GDP, but IMF sees India regaining lead in FY29

October 17, 2026

- In its latest World Economic Outlook database, released on Tuesday, the IMF puts Bangladesh's GDP per capita in current US dollar at USD 2,886 in FY26, compared with USD 2,750 for India—a difference of just USD 136.
- Despite having an economy roughly eight times larger, India is projected to stay behind Bangladesh until FY28. The forecast shows India's GDP per capita rising to USD 3,662 in FY29, surpassing Bangladesh's USD 3,334.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-overtakes-india-capita-gdp-imf-sees-india-regaining-lead-fy29-1574521>

Fiscal year shift to April-March: Govt seeks time-bound plans to revise laws, regulations, and systems

October 17, 2026

- The government has asked all ministries and their subordinate offices to submit time-bound plans by 25 October to amend relevant laws, regulations and agreements, and make other changes needed to shift the country's fiscal year from July-June to April-March.
- According to sources, the Cabinet Division recently sent letters to the Ministry of Public Administration and other ministries, seeking plans for the necessary changes.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fiscal-year-shift-april-march-govt-seeks-time-bound-plans-revise-laws-regulations-and>

Freight cost surge squeezes US-bound exports

October 17, 2026

- Bangladesh's exports struggle to remain competitive on the US market as persistently high freight costs combine with rising raw-material prices and expensive bank financing to pose headwinds.
- Some buyers are splitting orders or delaying production, leaving manufacturers struggling with idle capacity, mounting investment costs and uncertainty over future shipment amid the ongoing Middle East conflict.
- Exporters have said higher shipping charges are making it increasingly difficult for them to keep the cost of production competitive, with freight rates in some cases approaching or even exceeding the prices of the products being shipped.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/freight-cost-surge-squeezes-us-bound-exports>

Pressure on forex rises as external debt service surges

October 17, 2026

- Bangladesh feels the pinch of growing external borrowing as pressure builds up on its foreign-exchange buffers from incremental debt-service payouts, officials say. Out of an aggregate debt servicing, interest payments have more than tripled and principal payback nearly doubled over the past five years, according to latest official statistics.
- The government paid USD 1.56bn in interest against external loans in the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 alone, compared to around USD 491.25mn in FY2021-22, according to provisional data available with the Economic Relations Division (ERD).
- Principal repayments against outstanding medium- to long-term loans (MLTs) reached USD 2.98bn in FY2026, almost twice the approximately USD 1.53bn paid six years earlier.
- The aggregate principal and interest payments amounted to around USD 4.53bn during the last fiscal year, reflecting the growing cost of servicing foreign loans contracted by successive governments to finance infrastructure, energy, transport and other development projects.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/pressure-on-forex-rises-as-external-debt-service-surges>

Trade and Commerce

29pc of highly educated Bangladeshi youth unemployed, half work below qualifications: IMF

October 17, 2026

- Nearly 29pc of highly educated young people in Bangladesh are unemployed, while around half of highly educated workers are employed in jobs that do not fully use their qualifications and skills, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The findings were highlighted in the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific, released on 15 October. The report said Bangladesh's overall youth unemployment rate stands at 12-13pc, but the situation is far worse among highly educated young people.

From: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/29-highly-educated-bangladeshi-youth-unemployed-half-work-below-qualifications-imf>

Govt restores monthly VAT returns

October 17, 2026

- The government has restored monthly value-added tax (VAT) return filing, scrapping the quarterly system introduced in July amid concerns over revenue collection and operational difficulties.
- The change was formalized through the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, published in a gazette on October 14.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-restores-monthly-vat-returns-4299721>

Capital Market

Beacon Pharma's profit doubles in FY26 on higher sales

October 17, 2026

- Beacon Pharmaceuticals reported a strong financial performance for FY26, with significant growth in earnings, net asset value and operating cash flow.
- The company secured a profit of BDT 1.94bn (USD 15.9mn) in FY26, up 105pc from the previous year. It said the surge in earnings was fuelled by a 30.96pc increase in sales in FY26 compared with the previous year.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/beacon-pharmas-profit-doubles-in-fy26-on-higher-sales>

Aziz Pipes surges 150pc since Jan despite factory shutdown

October 17, 2026

- Junk stock Aziz Pipes has continued its rally unabated without any change in its poor fundamentals. The company's operations have remained suspended since May last year, according to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

- The stock climbed from BDT 40.60 on January 15 to BDT 82.30 on June 25, a 103pc surge in a little more than five months. It slid to BDT 78.7 on September 23 before rising again to close at BDT 101.60 on Wednesday.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/aziz-pipes-surges-150pc-since-jan-despite-factory-shutdown>

RMG

RMG units facing uncertainty over raw material sourcing

October 17, 2026

- The country's readymade garment exporters are facing mounting uncertainty over raw material sourcing as a series of sudden policy changes since 2025 have disrupted supply chains and pushed up cotton yarn prices.
- The uncertainty emerged over policy changes including withdrawing bonded warehouse facilities for imports of certain counts of cotton yarn which gave rise to concerns among international buyers pushing them to shift orders to competing countries including India and Egypt.
- Other changes are a land route ban on yarn imports imposed on April 15 last year, efforts to impose higher safeguard duties on cotton yarn, restriction on knit fabric imports in the new import policy which later on September 08 was withdrawn.

From: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/rmg-units-facing-uncertainty-over-raw-material-sourcing>

Spain now Bangladesh's largest apparel buyer in EU

October 17, 2026

- Spain is now the largest buyer of "Made in Bangladesh" apparel items in the European bloc, overtaking Germany in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.
- According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) exports to Spain rose nearly 14pc year-on-year to USD 1.14bn in July-September.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/spain-now-bangladeshs-largest-apparel-buyer-eu-4299726>

International

Oil's long view darkens as Iran war refuses to end

October 17, 2026

- Oil markets initially treated the Iran war as a brief bullish disruption in a long-term bearish trend.

- But traders are now betting that oil prices will remain elevated through 2028, forcing a rethink of the global inflation outlook.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oils-long-view-darkens-iran-war-refuses-end-4299736>

Indonesia gets 'wake-up call' as MSCI prepares to expel it from global indexes

October 17, 2026

- Indonesia's stock market is no longer worthy of "emerging market" status, MSCI said on Friday, laying out a plan to remove it from a suite of indexes tracked by funds, a shock move that sparked the steepest one-day drop in Jakarta shares since 1998.
- Coming a month ahead of a scheduled review, MSCI's change of tack stunned investors and irked Jakarta officials, with the Indonesian regulator unveiling sanctions against those linked to alleged trading manipulation in shares of three firms.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/indonesia-gets-wake-call-msci-prepares-expel-it-global-indexes-4300206>

Gulf economies won't return to pre-war growth soon

October 17, 2026

- The International Monetary Fund expects energy-rich Middle Eastern economies to bounce back, but not in the medium term, the organisation's regional chief said on Thursday, as fighting continued between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthis.
- The statement comes as the IMF projects a widespread contraction in Gulf economies following months of war that began in Iran and has now spread to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, with maritime energy traffic still impacted.

From: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gulf-economies-wont-return-pre-war-growth-soon-4299791>

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Morning Newsflash

Saturday, 17 October, 2026

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