Morning Newsflash

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IDLC-SL Research

Economy

Exports grow for third straight month, rise 4.39pc to USD 4b in October

November 02, 2026

- Bangladesh's merchandise exports rose 4.39pc year-on-year to USD 3.99bn in October, driven by stronger shipments of ready-made garments (RMG), pharmaceuticals, jute and leather products, according to the latest data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).
- Export earnings stood at USD 3.82bn in the same month last year. Earnings also rose 1.39pc from USD 3.94bn in September.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-exports-rise-6-17b-jul-oct-fy27-1589526

Remittance inflow reaches BDT 353.4bn (USD 2.9bn) in October

November 02, 2026

- Bangladesh received USD 2.87bn in remittances in October, equivalent to BDT 353.4bn (USD 2.9bn) at an exchange rate of BDT 123 per dollar, as expatriate Bangladeshis sent home more money than in the previous month, according to Bangladesh Bank data.
- The country received USD 2.87363bn in remittances during the month, up from USD 2.76602bn in September. The October inflow was also around USD 107.6mn higher than that of the same month last year, according to the central bank's latest report released on Sunday.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/603203

Taka overvaluation and concern about Bangladesh losing export competitiveness

November 02, 2026

- Concerns about Bangladesh's export competitiveness stoke up as the local-currency taka gets overvalued by nearly 6.5pc against its benchmark level in exchange with peer currencies and makes products costlier.
- The elevated REER suggests that the local currency has become relatively expensive against the currencies of Bangladesh's major trading partners, potentially making Bangladeshi goods less competitive on the international market.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/concern-about-bangladesh-losing-export-competitiveness

Banking

Bangla QR now allows person-to-person transfers

November 02, 2026

- Person-to-person (P2P) transactions through Bangla QR officially began today, adding a new feature to Bangladesh's digital payment system. The move is part of the government's goal of making 75pc of transactions cashless by 2027. Authorities have already made QR payment facilities mandatory for obtaining or renewing trade licences across the country.
- Under the service, a person can send money to another individual simply by scanning that person's QR code. Users will no longer need to type in the recipient's mobile or account number. They can complete a transaction by scanning the QR code and verifying the required information, BB officials said.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangla-qr-now-allows-person-person-transfers-4312951

Trade and Commerce

Restaurant owners unite over Foodpanda dispute

November 02, 2026

- What began as a boycott campaign over alleged high commissions, additional charges, delayed payments and penalties is increasingly turning into a show of solidarity among restaurant businesses across the country. The collective position taken by restaurant owners in Chattogram has received support from several Dhaka-based restaurant brands, highlighting a growing call for businesses to stand together in protecting their interests and demanding fair treatment.
- The association said at least 120 restaurants in Chattogram had already joined the boycott after failing to receive a satisfactory response to their six-point demands. Several other restaurants have also expressed interest in joining the campaign.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/603263

HC clears REHAB to resume all activities

November 02, 2026

- The High Court has cleared the way for the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) to resume all activities by suspending for three months a Commerce Ministry directive restricting its operations.

- The directive, issued by the ministry's Trade Organisations-2 section, had barred REHAB from holding activities beyond routine operations, including board meetings, annual general meetings (AGMs), fairs and other programs.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/603212

Cable market shrinks 25pc as demand slump hits manufacturers
November 02, 2026

- Bangladesh's cable industry, backed by more than BDT 100bn (USD 819.6mn) in investment, faces a deepening crisis as falling public infrastructure spending, a housing slowdown, and high borrowing costs have shrunk the market by around 25pc in just two years, forcing factories to shut and workers unpaid.
- The market, which exceeded BDT 120bn (USD 983.6mn) in 2022, has fallen to an estimated BDT 80-90bn (USD 655.7-737.7mn), according to industry insiders. More than 100 manufacturers are now competing for fewer orders, with smaller firms struggling to survive amid rising costs and limited access to bank financing.
- More than 30pc of the market depends on government projects. Activity in this segment has declined by 50-60pc over the past two years, while demand from the housing sector has fallen by 30-35pc.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/cable-market-shrinks-25-demand-slump-hits-manufacturers-1585131

Energy and Power

Denmark keen to expand investment cooperation in Bangladesh's infrastructure, energy sectors
November 02, 2026

- Bangladesh and Denmark have discussed expanding bilateral investment cooperation in sustainable infrastructure, energy, environment-friendly industrialization and emerging investment opportunities.
- The meeting highlighted the potential of Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) and explored ways to accelerate the Laldiya Container Terminal project in Chattogram under the agreement signed with Denmark's APM Terminals.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/foreign-policy/denmark-keen-expand-investment-cooperation-bangladeshs-infrastructure-energy-sectors

Corporate

Half of Rupali Bank's BDT 198.1bn (USD 1.6bn) defaulted loans stuck with 20 borrowers
November 02, 2026

- State-owned Rupali Bank recovered just BDT 40.3mn (USD 0.33mn) from its top 20 loan defaulters in the first half of 2026, despite having BDT 98.6bn (USD 808.1mn) in outstanding loans to them, equivalent to nearly half of its total non-performing loans (NPLs).
- The bank's total NPLs stood at BDT 198.5bn (USD 1.62bn) in June, accounting for 37.98pc of its total outstanding loans of BDT 479.1bn (USD 3.9bn), while its actual capital shortfall reached BDT 180.3bn (USD 1.5bn), according to a report prepared by Bangladesh Bank's Supervisory Data Management and Analytics Department.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/half-rupali-banks-tk19805cr-defaulted-loans-stuck-20-borrowers-1588996

Confidence Cement exits battery business with BDT 113.4mn (USD 0.93mn) stake sale
November 02, 2026

- Confidence Cement has decided to sell its entire shareholding in subsidiary Confidence Batteries Limited to Confidence Infrastructure for BDT 113.4mn (USD 0.93mn) to meet its immediate financial obligations and pursue its strategic objectives. The company's board of directors has approved the sale and transfer of its entire holding of 10.3mn ordinary shares in Confidence Batteries.
- In its disclosure, Confidence Cement said the board approved the proposal after considering the company's strategic objectives and the need to meet its immediate financial obligations. The company, however, did not disclose the specific financial obligations it intends to meet with the proceeds from the sale. It also did not provide details about the potential impact of the ownership transfer on Confidence Batteries' business operations or financial position.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/confidence-cement-exits-battery-business-tk1134cr-stake-sale-1589801

Capital Market

Most multinational firms veer off growth path in Jan-Sept

November 02, 2026

- Most of the listed multinational companies (MNCs) suffered a decline in profit in January-September this year, compared to the same period last year, amid a challenging business environment. The affected companies include Unilever Consumer Care, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Grameenphone, Linde Bangladesh, and British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC).
- According to officials and company disclosures, the latest financial performance of the above-mentioned MNCs reflects the challenges they face in sustaining growth and profitability. Macroeconomic worries also played a role in the decline in profit.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/most-multinational-firms-veer-off-growth-path-in-jan-sept

Listed banks post BDT 14.2bn (USD 116.4mn) net loss in Q3 as nine lenders bleed

November 02, 2026

- The country's 31 listed banks collectively posted a net loss of BDT 14.2bn (USD 116.4mn) in the July-September quarter of 2026, as mounting losses at distressed lenders wiped out profits generated by financially stronger institutions, highlighting deepening stress in the banking sector.
- According to Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) data, nine banks reported combined losses of BDT 51.3bn (USD 420.5mn) during the quarter, while the remaining 22 profitable banks collectively earned BDT 37.0bn (USD 303.4mn). The overall loss reflects mounting pressure on the banking sector from rising default risks, higher provisioning requirements and weak lending operations, according to industry insiders.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/listed-banks-post-tk1424cr-net-loss-q3-nine-lenders-bleed-1589831

International

Vietnam's trade surpasses USD 1tn in 10 months

November 02, 2026

- Vietnam's total goods trade reached an estimated USD 1.01tn in the first 10 months of 2026, up 32.3pc from a year earlier, surpassing the USD 1tn mark for the first time, the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Agency of Foreign Trade said on Thursday. Trade turnover in October alone was estimated at USD 122.2bn, up 47.6pc year-on-year.
- Exports continued to post strong growth, reaching an estimated USD 499bn in the January-October period, jumping 27.4pc. The performance has put Vietnam on track to meet or exceed its full-year 2026 export growth target of 15-16pc.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/vietnams-trade-surpasses-1tn-10-months-4313086

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