# Morning Newsflash

*Sunday, 08 November, 2026*

**IDLC-SL Research**

## Economy

**Import surge widens trade deficit to USD 7.47bn in Q1**

November 08, 2026

- Bangladesh's trade deficit widened sharply to USD 7.47bn in the first quarter of the fiscal 2026-27 as rising import payments outpaced export growth, pushing the current account back into deficit and increasing pressure on the country's external sector.
- The trade deficit stood at USD 5.71bn in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.
- Import payments on a free-on-board (FOB) basis, including exports processing zones (EPZs), rose 15.1pc year-on-year to USD 19.33bn during July-September, compared with USD 16.8bn a year earlier.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-surge-widens-trade-deficit-747b-q1-1594176

**Reserves drop to after USD 1.64bn ACU payment**

November 08, 2026

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves fell to USD 34.85bn (BB calculation) from USD 36.38bn (BB calculation) after the country paid USD 1.64bn in regional import bills through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).
- The ACU, a Tehran-based organization, facilitates payment settlements among nine member countries: India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reserves-drop-3485-billion-after-acu-payment-4316506

**Foreign debt nearly triples in a decade**

November 08, 2026

- Bangladesh's foreign debt has almost tripled in 10 years, a steeper rise than in any other South Asian country except the Maldives, according to the World Bank.
- Even so, the country has a lower debt burden relative to export earnings than Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. However, its burden is higher than that of India and Nepal.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-debt-nearly-triples-decade-4317831

**Government accepts high-interest-bearing Japanese loans**

November 08, 2026

- Bangladesh is set to resume borrowing highest-interest Japanese loans after failing to convince the financier to offer more concessional terms in what officials say a shift in government approach to overseas borrowing.
- Analysts say borrowing at steeply raised 3.5-percent interest is destined to bloat repayment obligations as huge sums of funds will be taken for Japanese-funded metro-rail projects, apart from two immediate loans for two development projects.
- The government prepares to sign two loan agreements for the Upazila Governance and Development Project and the Investment Climate Improvement Project shortly under the revised lending terms, according to officials at the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/government-accepts-high-interest-bearing-japanese-loans

## Energy and Power

**Summit LNG terminal resumes operations after maintenance**

November 08, 2026

- Gas supply to the national grid has increased as Summit's floating LNG terminal in Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, resumed operations after maintenance, restoring supplies from both the country's LNG terminals.
- According to Petrobangla data at 2PM, total gas supply stood at 2,408 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD), including 1,584 MMCFD from domestic gas fields and 824 MMCFD from LNG.

From: https://observerbd.com/news/604476

## Corporate

**BRAC Bank cuts export document processing time from 40 days to one**

November 08, 2026

- BRAC Bank has completed Bangladesh's first fully digital export documentary collection transaction, reducing document processing time from 40 days to just one day through the use of blockchain technology and an electronic bill of lading.
- The transaction marks a significant step towards paperless international trade, demonstrating how digital technology can help Bangladeshi exporters reduce delays, improve operational efficiency and manage working capital more effectively, says a press statement.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/brac-bank-cuts-export-document-processing-time-from-40-days-to-one

## Capital Market

**DESCO profit jumps 34pc in Q1 on higher revenue, improved efficiency**
November 08, 2026

- After staging a significant financial turnaround in FY26, Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) continued its recovery in the first quarter of FY27, posting a 34pc year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 778mn (USD 6.4mn) driven by higher distribution revenue and improved operating efficiency.
- The state-owned power distributor's earnings per share (EPS) rose to BDT 1.78 (USD 0.015) in the July-September quarter from BDT 1.33 (USD 0.011) (restated) in the same period a year earlier, according to its price-sensitive information (PSI) disclosed on Thursday.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/desco-profit-jumps-34pc-in-q1-on-higher-revenue-improved-efficiency

**Eastern Lubricants' profit grows 33pc in FY26**
November 08, 2026

- Eastern Lubricants Blenders posted a record annual profit of BDT 90.95mn (USD 0.75mn) in FY26, driven by higher sales of base oil and increased non-operating income.
- The state-owned company's profit grew 33pc year-on-year, while earnings per share (EPS) rose to BDT 38.20 (USD 0.31) in FY26 from BDT 28.80 (USD 0.24) in the previous year, according to a stock exchange filing on Thursday.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/eastern-lubricants-profit-grows-33pc-in-fy26

**Matin Spinning's Q1 profit more than doubles on higher prices, lower tax**
November 08, 2026

- Matin Spinning Mills' first-quarter profit more than doubled year-on-year to BDT 245mn (USD 2.0mn) in the July-September quarter, supported by higher sales volume, improved selling prices and a lower tax rate.
- The textile manufacturer registered more than 32pc growth in sales revenue to BDT 2.94bn (USD 24.1mn) during the quarter, according to a stock exchange filing on Wednesday.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/matin-spinnings-q1-profit-more-than-doubles-on-higher-prices-lower-tax

## Trade and Commerce

**CAAB plan to increase airport charges**
November 08, 2026

- The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is considering raising several airport and aviation service charges, with proposed increases ranging from 10pc to 33pc.
- The plan covers fees paid by airlines for landing, passenger boarding bridges, route navigation and airport services outside regular operating hours. If implemented, the increases would add to airlines' operating costs and could put further pressure on airfares.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/what-airport-charges-does-caab-plan-increase-and-how-much-1595221

**Govt plans to cut business approval time to 18 days**
November 08, 2026

- The government is planning a major overhaul of Bangladesh's investment regime, aiming to slash the time required to secure all business startup licenses, clearances, and approvals from up to 355 days down to just 18 days.
- The initiative aims to boost domestic and foreign direct investment by eliminating bureaucratic delays. Under the proposed system, investors will be able to obtain 11 of the 12 required statutory documents within a single day each. The government also plans to reduce prerequisites, allow parallel application processing, and introduce a single digital platform to streamline operations.

From: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-cut-business-approval-time-18-days-1594341

**Bottled soybean oil supply shrinks**
November 08, 2026

- Bottled soybean oil has virtually disappeared from many retail shops in the city as refiners reportedly curtail supplies, raising concerns among consumers and traders over a possible fresh price hike.
- The supply squeeze has forced consumers to pay higher prices for loose soybean oil, while refiners are seeking a further BDT 14-per-litre (USD 0.11) increase, despite the government having raised prices by BDT 5.0 (USD 0.04) a litre in September this year.

From: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bottled-soybean-oil-supply-shrinks

## International

**World food prices dip in October**
November 08, 2026

- World food prices edged lower in October as weaker import demand contributed to monthly declines in cereal, dairy and meat prices, but were still nearly 6pc higher than a year earlier, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said on Friday.
- The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in international prices for a basket of food commodities, averaged 133.9 points in October, down from a revised 135.6 in September.

From: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/world-food-prices-dip-october-4317866

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